United Nations S/PV.5441

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5441 st meeting

Friday, 19 May 2006, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Ikouebe	(Congo)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. D'Alotto
	China	Mr. Zhang Yishan
	Denmark	Ms. Løj
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Nana Effah-Apenteng
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Peru	Ms. Tincopa
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Whineray
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manongi
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in Chad and the Sudan

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-35453 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Chad and the Sudan

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Chad, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ahmat Ibrahim (Chad) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Jan Egeland, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Egeland to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Jan Egeland, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. I now give him the floor.

Mr. Egeland: Thank you very much, Mr. President, for this opportunity to brief the Council on my visit to the Sudan and Chad between 6 and 11 May.

What I saw in Darfur and in eastern Chad drove home how much is really now at stake. The next few weeks will be absolutely critical for millions of lives in this region. With the Darfur peace agreement, signed the day before I arrived in the Sudan, there is finally real hope that we are turning the corner. But we could also still enter a downward spiral that would pull millions even further into the abyss. The alternative to peace could be catastrophic. With even more violence and attacks, the humanitarian operation could not be sustained and relief workers would have to withdraw. Malnutrition and mortality rates would again multiply — in some areas within weeks, not months.

With so much at stake, all of us will regret it if we fail to do everything we can right now to achieve the immediate goals on which we all agree: implement the peace agreement and bring on board those who have not signed it, immediately and substantially strengthen the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS), take concrete steps to accelerate the transition to a United Nations operation and make sure that the humanitarian lifeline to more than 3 million people is secure and funded.

The alternative to peace and reconciliation is what I saw in the Gereida area in South Darfur: massive displacement, constant violence, attacks against civilians, and a few humanitarian organizations struggling to provide relief to more and more people. The number of displaced in Gereida has tripled in the past four months, with current estimates ranging between 100,000 and 120,000. Recently arrived internally displaced persons (IDPs) with whom I spoke gave harrowing accounts of attacks on their villages by Government forces and militias only 12 days prior to my visit. In fact, on 14 May, after I left, an armed militia attacked another village southwest of Gereida, as confirmed by AMIS. Reports of attacks on villages in other areas of Darfur are still reaching us almost every day.

As more and more people arrive in Gereida with little or nothing to sustain them, the humanitarian community is only barely able to meet the rising needs and is confronted with constant access problems. The main road from Nyala has to be declared "no-go" for extended periods, and local government authorities have been blocking fuel deliveries for bore holes and water pumps. Nevertheless, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Oxfam and another non-governmental organization (NGO), ZOA, are managing to provide food, water and other relief, and the World Food Programme (WFP) and two additional NGOs are planning to start operations in the coming weeks.

It was too early to tell what the impact of the peace agreement on the ground would be. The local representatives of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) with whom I spoke in Gereida, who are part of the Minawi faction, told me they accepted the peace agreement despite some reservations. Senior Government officials with whom I spoke seemed fully committed to the implementation of the agreement and eager to turn the page.

At the same time, however, a string of demonstrations have been taking place against the peace agreement in IDP camps in all three Darfur states. In several instances, the demonstrations have turned violent and have resulted in casualties, including in Kalma, in South Darfur; in Zalingei, in West Darfur; and in Abu Shouk, in North Darfur. The most troubling aspect of several of those demonstrations has been the targeting of unarmed AMIS personnel and compounds inside the camps. A particularly tragic incident occurred on 8 May, the day I visited the Kalma camp. The AMIS police compound in the camp was attacked and systematically looted, and a Sudanese AMIS language assistant was brutally murdered. Given the systematic nature of the looting, it is believed that the attack on the AMIS compound was well planned and coordinated in advance.

The incident in Kalma underscores the fact that new and better security arrangements have to be put in place for the camp. Discussions are ongoing in that regard, particularly regarding the future involvement of Government police.

In a positive development, when I met with the Governor of South Darfur, he agreed that the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) could return to Kalma as camp coordinator — a decision also confirmed to me by Second Vice-President Taha. The speedy return of the NRC will not only help to lower tensions in what has been the largest and most volatile camp in Darfur, but also allow the much-needed preparations for the approaching rainy season to start. They are essential to avoid epidemics, flooding, the blocking of access and the destruction of infrastructure. Every day counts, as time is running out. An outbreak of cholera in Kalma would be a nightmare scenario for the 95,000 inhabitants of this crowded camp as well as for the population of nearby Nyala.

I also hope that AMIS civilian police can return quickly to Kalma and to several other camps from which it has had to withdraw in the last few days. I welcome the appeal by Mr. Abdel Wahid of the SLA, calling for restraint and calm. I also welcome the response of the many sheikhs and youth leaders who apologized for the numerous incidents during the demonstrations.

The role of AMIS is more important than ever. AMIS needs a new and stronger mandate for protecting the population, patrolling dangerous areas, building confidence and helping to implement the peace agreement. It cannot be right that so many of these courageous men and women serving with AMIS have not even been paid their salary for two months. AMIS has to be supported and strengthened immediately to give it the capacity and credibility to do its job. As the Secretary-General said to the Council last week (see S/PV.5434), we cannot afford to lose a single day.

A stronger and larger AMIS presence will also help establish the kind of secure environment in which IDPs will be able to return home. Plans have been in place for some time to support returns, and some Government officials seem eager for this process to be accelerated, even prematurely, before the upcoming rainy season. But we must ensure that all returns occur voluntarily and in safety and dignity, in full compliance with international standards. Well-established mechanisms are now in place between the Government, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in this respect, which we should use and build upon. We hope that conditions will be in place that would allow significant returns between the end of the coming rainy season and the planting season in the spring of 2007.

When I briefed the Council one month ago, access restrictions and funding shortfalls were threatening the viability of our humanitarian operation in Darfur, the largest single operation on Earth. While that remains true today, I also have some positive developments to report. First, regarding access restrictions, both the Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Kosti, and Vice-President Taha gave me assurances that the previously agreed moratorium on restrictions for Darfur would now be fully implemented. They also agreed that procedures for humanitarian organizations had to be clear and predictable, which today they are not. Since then, a policy statement has been issued by the Vice-President declaring the Government's intention to ensure fuller

humanitarian access to Darfur. Furthermore, after our meetings, the Humanitarian Ministry and the Aid Commission convened a gathering with NGOs in Khartoum with the stated purpose of opening a new chapter of cooperation. NGOs were also invited to work with the Government in the drafting of new rules and regulations to implement the feared and restrictive NGO law. These rules should ensure that national and international NGOs can carry out their activities freely and effectively, and in accordance with international human rights standards.

These are encouraging initial steps. But to resolve the daily administrative nightmares we face, they now have to be translated into real changes in the way national and local authorities deal with humanitarian organizations and staff, in particular the Humanitarian Aid Commission and national security authorities. To implement the moratorium, I take for granted that visas and stay permits (which are valid until the end of January 2007) will be issued to NGO staff, as was initially agreed. The Government should also lift the many other access restrictions listed on the fact sheet we provided to Council members during my last briefing, including those restrictions for work in eastern Sudan. This includes the application of the agreement between the Government and the United Nations to allow freedom of movement to all United Nations staff. The refusal by the Government to implement the relevant provisions of the agreement is having increasingly dire consequences, particularly in the east where essential relief activities had to be suspended. It would be very timely and important for the upcoming Security Council mission to the Sudan to review these humanitarian access issues with the Government.

Secondly, another positive development is the number of new contributions that have reduced the grave funding shortfall for Darfur from 80 per cent to 60 per cent in recent days. Most important, the World Food Programme will be able to avert at least some of the ration cuts for Darfur as a result of several generous pledges, including an additional 47,000 metric tons from the United States Government, a purchase of 35,000 metric tons through internal loans against an expected pledge from the European Commission, and 20,000 metric tons being contributed by the Government of National Unity of the Sudan. I had appealed for this contribution from the Government of Sudan in my meetings with Vice-President Taha and Minister Kosti and want to express my appreciation for their prompt action. This is the first pledge by the Government of the Sudan to the United Nations appeal since the beginning of the Darfur crisis. It sends a positive signal at this important moment, and provides urgently needed relief to Sudanese citizens.

Together, these contributions of cereal will help to increase the rations from 1,050 kilocalories to 1,770 kilocalories per person per day until August. However, additional funding is still needed for other essential items in the food basket, such as sugar, salt and pulses. And even the additional cereal contributions are not enough to carry us through to the next harvest at the end of October. The World Food Programme still needs an additional 53,000 metric tons of cereals for September and October to cover the entire "hunger season", as it is called locally. Given the four-month lead time for food deliveries, additional pledges are needed now, not in one or two months.

Overall, we still face a shortfall of $389 million for Darfur alone. During my visit, I could see the impact these shortfalls are having on our operations, particularly those of United Nations agencies and many smaller NGOs. Feeding centres have had to be closed, food cannot be distributed, staff is being reduced, teachers in camps are no longer being paid and many IDPs no longer have access to free health care in hospitals. I hope the Government will consider filling some of those gaps, particularly the payment of teachers' salaries and fees for health services. Following the findings of my mission, I have also approved a Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) grant of $21 million to cover the most urgent additional needs resulting from the most recent wave of displacement in recent months, which is not covered by the work plan that we issued in November of last year for 2006.

We also urgently need new and substantial contributions from donors for the rest of the Sudan. The total shortfall under the work plan for 2006 amounts to $983 million. Many vital sectors have received less than 20 per cent of their funding. Humanitarian programmes in southern Sudan are still only 17 per cent funded. I want to appeal especially to those donors that have so far contributed much less than they did last year, and to donors in the Gulf region that have a particular interest in the Sudan.

I also came back from the visit with an even greater sense of admiration for the thousands of humanitarian and AMIS colleagues on the ground. Their commitment to work in the most difficult conditions and under constant threat to their personal safety is truly awe-inspiring. The attacks against relief workers have been relentless and are threatening our operations in many areas. Our staff, compounds, trucks and vehicles are being targeted, literally on a daily basis. In El Geneina alone, there were seven armed incidents against NGOs in three weeks. The Government urgently has to ensure law and order in areas under its control, as I discussed with Vice-President Taha. All rebel factions and militia groups have to stop hijacking vehicles and attacking relief workers.

Large areas throughout Darfur are inaccessible to us as a result of those direct attacks and the continuing fighting, as can be seen from the map that we distributed. In many parts of West Darfur, we have had no — or only very limited — access since last December. NGOs are using every available means to distribute food and other supplies, including through food committees and donkey convoys. But nowhere near enough assistance is getting through, and the hunger season is approaching. The few sources of food and income left to the local population are threatened by militias that burn crops, continue to steal livestock and continue to abuse women collecting firewood.

Let me turn now to the situation in Chad. As I was able to see during my visit to Abéché and Goz Beida, the threats against relief workers and the civilian population in eastern Chad are at least as serious as those in Darfur. A total of 24 vehicles have been hijacked from humanitarian organizations in eastern Chad in the past few months alone. Only two weeks ago, a UNICEF colleague was shot and almost killed in Abéché. As we speak, staff at the French military hospital are fighting to save her arm. All of these attacks are being committed with total impunity. As a result of the insecurity, United Nations agencies and NGOs have been forced to reduce staff and programmes in many areas, at a time when needs are continuing to increase, particularly those of the 50,000 new internally displaced persons.

Severe funding shortfalls are also a major constraint, with only 25 per cent of the required $179 million funded to date. I am considering a CERF request that has just been submitted by the Humanitarian Coordinator, but we urgently need additional donor contributions for the operation in Chad.

Another major concern in eastern Chad is the targeting of refugees and IDPs, including children, for recruitment by various armed groups. This is undermining the civilian and humanitarian character of the camps, and further increases their vulnerability to attack. The displaced and the civilian population are also being threatened by militia and rebel attacks and by the almost total lack of law and order in the area. One group of IDPs I spoke with at the Gouroukoun site near Goz Beida had been attacked three times before deciding to flee the villages. One indication of the lawlessness in eastern Chad is the fact that at least 13,000 people have fled from Chad to Darfur in recent weeks to escape the fighting and the attacks.

The humanitarian colleagues I spoke to during my visit expected the situation in eastern Chad to deteriorate further, rather than improve in the coming weeks. At the same time, President Deby made it very clear to me that the Government lacked the capacity to ensure the security and protection of the civilian population in eastern Chad and of the humanitarian organizations that are there to assist them. That means that we are confronted with a very dangerous vacuum that is being filled by rebels, militias and others, leaving civilians, IDPs, refugee camps and relief workers utterly exposed.

Something has to be done urgently to prevent a scenario in which more and more civilians are attacked and displaced, refugee camps become increasingly militarized and potentially embroiled in the conflict, and relief workers have to be withdrawn. A number of options could be considered, including assistance to the Government of Chad to enable it to meet its security responsibilities. Humanitarian organizations have also been employing more Chadian security staff themselves. But we also have to consider other security arrangements now, before the situation become much worse. Such an arrangement could help make refugee and IDP areas more secure and enhance the safety of humanitarian workers. The High Commissioner for Refugees is developing various options in that regard.

In Darfur and eastern Chad, humanitarian relief constitutes a lifeline for close to 4 million people. Attacking relief workers or impeding their work means attacking that lifeline. If relief workers have to pull

out, hundreds of thousands of lives are put at risk. Those attacking our colleagues not only violate fundamental norms of humanitarian law, they also endanger the lives of millions of their fellow citizens. Impunity for the attacks has to stop, and the attacks themselves have to stop.

Lastly, I want to thank the Security Council for the re-energized attention that is has been paying to the critical situation in Darfur and eastern Chad. The Council's attention will remain crucial, as the next few weeks will be make or break. We can turn the corner towards reconciliation and reconstruction, or see an even worse collapse of our efforts to provide protection and relief to millions of people. All of us have to do whatever is in our power to make sure that we finally turn the corner to a better future.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Egeland for his briefing.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5442

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5442nd meeting

Wednesday, 24 May 2006, 12:50 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Ikouebe	(Congo)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Garcia Moritán
	China	Mr. Li Junhua
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. Duclos
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Peru	Mr. Ruiz Rosas
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Sulaiti
	Russian Federation	Mr. Smirnov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Manengi
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Eighth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2006/222)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-35958 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.50 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Eighth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2006/222)

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Gba (Côte d'Ivoire) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2006/222, which contains the eighth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its full support for the International Working Group (IWG) and endorses its seventh final communiqué dated 19 May 2006.

"The Security Council welcomes the launching of first pilot operations of public hearings in seven locations, in particular in Abidjan, in the South and in the North of the country. It welcomes also the discussions engaged by the Chiefs of Staff of the Defence and Security Forces of Côte d'Ivoire (FANCI) and the Armed Forces of the Forces Nouvelles (FAFN) to initiate without delay the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme.

"The Security Council commends the Prime Minister, Charles Konan Banny, for having taken, in cooperation with President Laurent Gbagbo, these concrete initiatives which constitute a first step towards the implementation of the peace process he leads. It reiterates to him its full support.

"The Security Council calls upon the community of donors to provide all the necessary financial resources to the High Representative for the Elections to support the full implementation of his mission.

"The Security Council underlines that many of the essential tasks envisaged in the road map established by the IWG remain to be executed. It reiterates its grave concern at the serious delay in the implementation of the road map, as well as the one expressed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 74 of his report dated 11 April 2006 (S/2006/222).

"The Security Council strongly condemns the acts of violence against civilians, political leaders and impartial forces. It demands that all Ivorian parties refrain from making any public messages that incite hatred and violence. It warns all Ivorian parties in that regard.

"The Security Council invites the Prime Minister and the Government of National Reconciliation he leads to take immediately, with the support of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) in accordance with its mandate, all the necessary measures to accelerate the implementation of the road map, in particular the DDR and identification operations, the redeployment of the administration throughout the territory and the reunification of the country.

"The Security Council calls upon the Ivorian authorities to take without delay all the necessary steps so that those responsible for violence are identified and punished, to keep the IWG and the Secretary-General informed in this regard, and, in close liaison with UNOCI, to

ensure the full independence and neutrality of Radio Télévision Ivoirienne (RTI).

"The Security Council urges all Ivorian parties, including the Chiefs of Staff of FANCI and FAFN, to closely cooperate with the Prime Minister in order to create the conditions indispensable for the holding of free, open, fair and transparent elections by 31 October 2006.

"The Security Council invites the IWG to report to it as soon as possible on its assessment of the implementation of the road map.

"The Security Council underlines that targeted measures are to be imposed against persons to be designated by the Committee established by paragraph 14 of resolution 1572 (2004) who among other things block the implementation of the peace process, including by attacking or obstructing the action of UNOCI, of the French forces which support it, of the High Representative for the elections or of the International Working Group, or who incite publicly hatred and violence, as provided in resolutions 1572 (2004) and 1643 (2005)."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2006/23.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5443

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5443rd meeting

Wednesday, 24 May 2006, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Ikouebe	(Congo)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	China	Mr. Zhang Yishan
	Denmark	Mr. Faaborg-Andersen
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Oshima
	Peru	Mr. De Rivero
	Qatar	Sheikha Almayasa bint Hamad Al-Thani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

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06-36046 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

It is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Gambari: Once again, the Middle East is at an important juncture. However, rather than one intersection, we now have several. While the issues may not be strictly intertwined, each influences the other in ways that are difficult to predict. In the Israeli-Palestinian theatre, Hamas' takeover of the Palestinian Authority, interfactional tensions in Gaza and the new Israeli Government have produced a new set of challenges as well as opportunities for the international community, including, unfortunately, a serious humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. Furthermore, the situation between Syria and Lebanon remains of continuing concern, and while the national dialogue in Lebanon continues, bilateral and domestic tensions remain. Meanwhile, the situations in Iran and Iraq, while not the domain of this briefing, also impact peace and stability across the Middle East.

Let me start with the situation in Israel and Palestine before turning to Lebanon and then making some more general observations.

I turn first to the fiscal and humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, where official salaries have not been paid to some 155,000 public-sector workers since the end of February. Those salaries account for 25 per cent of the Palestinian economy, supporting about one million people. Recipients provide the bulk of health, education and other services, including security, to the Palestinian people. Longer-term projections point to dramatic rises in poverty and unemployment rates if current trends continue.

On 9 May, the Quartet held discussions on those and other issues here at United Nations Headquarters, and benefited from the contributions of the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia as regional partners. The meeting highlighted the regional impact of the current crisis and resulted in the Quartet's expressing serious concern about the deteriorating conditions.

First, the Quartet stressed that international efforts to assist the Palestinian people do not relieve the Palestinian Authority Government of its responsibilities, outlined in signed agreements. The Palestinian Authority Government has received the important message from the donor members of the Quartet that its commitment to the principles outlined by the Quartet in its meeting in London on 30 January would pave the way for the restoration of direct assistance.

Secondly, the Quartet expressed its willingness to endorse a temporary international mechanism, to be developed by the European Union, that is limited in scope and duration, operates with full transparency and accountability, and ensures the direct delivery of assistance to the Palestinian people. If those criteria can be met, the temporary international mechanism will begin operating as soon as possible and will be reviewed after three months.

In the unique circumstances of the occupied Palestinian territory, it is difficult to differentiate between the roles of the different actors who are responsible for addressing basic needs. The Secretary-General therefore hopes that the scope of the mechanism will be as broad and as non-discriminatory as possible. The United Nations is lending its full support to European efforts to establish the mechanism and is participating in discussions in Brussels today — discussions which will focus on the need to move quickly, to ensure flexibility and to address the crisis in the banking sector.

Thirdly, the Quartet urged Israel to take steps to improve the humanitarian situation of the Palestinian

people. Israel has responsibilities in the occupied Palestinian territory, as well as obligations outlined in previous agreements.

The largest portion of the shortfall in the Palestinian Authority's monthly budget is the Palestinian value added tax and customs duties, which Israel has not transferred for the third month in a row. We note the positive decision of the Israeli cabinet on 21 May to spend approximately $11 million of that money on the health sector, further to Prime Minister Olmert's pledge to address humanitarian concerns, and notably health issues, in the occupied Palestinian territory. The Government of Israel is encouraged to build on that step and to find a way to transfer the full balance of monthly value added tax and customs receipts. That money accounts for about one third of the budget of the Palestinian Authority, and its early transfer is vital.

Fourthly, the Quartet called for urgent responses to assistance requests by international organizations, especially United Nations agencies. A revised consolidated appeal addressing additional humanitarian needs of Palestinians under the new circumstances will be issued later this month, and donors are also called upon to support the ongoing emergency activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

I now turn to the security situation. Five Israelis were injured by Palestinian violence this month. No Israelis have been killed, although one Israeli and one American teenager died of wounds sustained in last month's suicide attack in Tel Aviv. A reported 45 Palestinians have been killed this month, including at least two children, and 180 Palestinians have been injured. Of the Palestinian casualties, 10 of the dead and at least 33 of the wounded were victims of intra-Palestinian fighting, as was one Jordanian Government employee who was killed in Gaza a few days ago. This internal strife, notably in Gaza, has now reached worrying proportions.

We recently reported on appointments by President Abbas to key security positions, including within the Ministry of Interior, and the subsequent announcement by the Government of a new security force controlled by the Ministry of Interior. Despite President Abbas's declaration that this move was illegal, Interior Minister Siam deployed 3,000 armed men in Gaza on 17 May. The President responded by ordering all police forces to reinforce deployment in the Gaza Strip, and there were clashes between Palestinian Authority police and the new Hamas-led security force. A few days later, the Chief of Intelligence, Tareq Abu Rajab, was seriously injured in an explosion. Incidents continue, including the killing a few hours ago of the head of preventive security, Nabil Hodhod, in central Gaza. The situation remains extremely volatile. We welcome and encourage Egypt's ongoing efforts to calm the tension. We also invite others with influence to engage in similar efforts.

Jordan has announced that its security services discovered a hidden cache of long-range Katyusha rockets for use by Hamas against senior Jordanian officials. President Abbas has expressed great concern about these allegations, which Hamas officials have denied. On 26 April, two members of the European Border Assistance Mission were lightly wounded in an attack by Palestinian militants at Rafah. This attack was condemned by President Abbas' office and by the Ministry of Interior.

The Government of Israel reported that 81 attacks had been perpetrated against its territory. At least 40 of those attacks reportedly involved rocket and mortar fire from Gaza. No injuries were reported, though facilities were damaged. Israel responded with shelling of the rocket launching grounds. It remains essential for the Palestinian Authority to heed the Quartet's call to act decisively against terrorism and bring an end to the violence.

A senior Hamas military commander allegedly responsible for numerous attacks against Israeli civilians was arrested yesterday by Israeli security forces in the West Bank. Among other operations this month, Israel killed five alleged militants in Gaza on 5 May and seven on 14 May in the northern West Bank, and on 20 May a leading member of Islamic Jihad in Gaza was also killed. In this last attack, a boy, his mother and his grandmother were killed, and a three-year-old was wounded. Such collateral damage underlines the need for Israel to cease targeted killings and heed the call of the Quartet to show restraint and consider the potential consequences of its actions on civilians. Earlier today, according to news reports, two Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded in gun battles between Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers and Palestinians in central Ramallah, which erupted after troops entered the city to arrest alleged militants.

On closures, barrier and settlement activity, I would like to say that the Quartet has urged both parties to take concrete steps to implement their obligations under the Agreement on Movement and Access. The Karni crossing between Israel and Gaza has been closed for half of the scheduled days of operation in 2006. The United Nations and other actors face increasingly tight Israeli restrictions on staff movement to and from Gaza and on the supply of humanitarian goods through Karni, despite Israel's stated desire to support expanded United Nations operations.

The Israeli authorities directly responsible have shown awareness of the difficulties. Karni has been open to allow sufficient imports to avert a food supply crisis this month. However, agricultural exports have been limited, resulting in losses of about $9.5 million since the beginning of the season. We were encouraged by the 17 May decision of the new Israeli Defence Minister, Mr. Peretz, to reopen Karni in both directions. Regrettably, the implementation of this decision was suspended shortly thereafter. We hope that this will be reconsidered.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), physical obstacles in the West Bank currently stand at 515, up from 476 last month. A system of permits heavily restricts travel to the Jordan Valley. It also restricts access to closed areas between the Green Line and the barrier and limits movement between different segments of the West Bank.

The Quartet also stated on 9 May that the parties should avoid unilateral measures which prejudice final-status issues and expressed concern about settlement expansion and the route of the barrier. However, on 26 April, Prime Minister Olmert announced his intention to increase the pace of construction and to complete the barrier around Jerusalem by the end of the year. The Israeli cabinet reiterated its commitment to the construction of the barrier and approved a series of changes in the northern West Bank and Jerusalem areas. Meanwhile, Israeli settlement construction continues. The Defence Ministry recently authorized the expansion of four West Bank settlements to the north and south of Jerusalem as well as in the Jordan Valley. Defence Minister Peretz also extended previously issued evacuation orders regarding 12 settlement outposts, while declaring the Government's intention to take action on "the evacuation of illegal outposts".

Turning to political developments, I would like to observe that, on 9 May, the Quartet welcomed President Abbas's continued commitment to a platform of peace, which was reaffirmed in a letter to the Quartet prior to the meeting. The Quartet also reiterated its grave concern that the Palestinian Authority Government has so far failed to commit itself to the principles of non-violence, recognition of Israel and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations.

A Palestinian national dialogue will start tomorrow in Ramallah and Gaza City, linked by video. Around 500 representatives of all political parties, civil society, the private sector, the Palestinian Authority and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) will participate. The agenda includes measures to reinforce national unity, ways to address the current critical situation, and the activation of the PLO. The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process has encouraged the pursuit through dialogue of a positive consensus among Palestinian political actors regarding the road ahead.

In an important precursor to the dialogue, Palestinian political detainees in Israeli prisons, including senior Fatah and Hamas members, announced on 10 May an agreement on common principles for national action and dialogue. The agreement refers to establishing a Palestinian State along the 4 June 1967 borders, describes the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, states that political action should be based on Arab legitimacy and United Nations resolutions, and declares that resistance to Israel's occupation should be limited to the 1967 borders. That document was endorsed by President Abbas. The Hamas-led Palestinian Authority Government's response was more cautious.

On the Israeli side, Prime Minister Olmert presented his governing coalition to the Knesset on 4 May. The coalition guidelines state that the Government of Israel "will strive to shape the permanent borders of the State of Israel" and that it

> "will act to achieve this through negotiations and agreement with the Palestinians, conducted on the basis of mutual recognition, signed agreements,

the road map principles, cessation of violence and the disarming of the terror organizations".

The Quartet welcomed Prime Minister Olmert's call for negotiations with a Palestinian partner committed to the principles of the road map. In this context, the meeting between President Abbas and Israeli Foreign Minister Livni at the World Economic Forum in Sharm el-Sheikh last weekend was a positive development, as was the agreement reached to prepare carefully for a meeting between the President and Prime Minister Olmert.

As many members will have read, Prime Minister Olmert met President Bush in Washington yesterday. While Prime Minister Olmert indicated that he intends to "exhaust every possibility to promote peace with the Palestinians", he also noted that if Israel concluded that progress was not possible, it would be "compelled to try a different route", involving removing settlements which are not part of major Israeli settlement centres in the West Bank while ensuring that major population centres would "remain under Israeli control and become part of the State of Israel as part of the final-status agreement".

President Bush encouraged Prime Minister Olmert to reach out to President Abbas and stated that the best servant of peace was "a negotiated final-status agreement". President Bush also indicated that any final-status agreement could be achieved only on the basis of "mutually agreed changes". We support the need for a negotiated outcome and in that regard urge all parties to engage in substantive dialogue at the earliest opportunity.

With regard to Lebanon, the situation along the Blue Line has been quiet but tense. There were 20 Israeli air violations, as compared with three last month. We continue to call on all parties to respect fully the Blue Line. The Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Lebanon has reminded all his interlocutors of the need to take the necessary measures to lower tensions.

On 2 May, Lebanon called for the removal of a number of sand barriers and border police posts that Syria had established in the vicinity of the Lebanese towns of Ras Baalbeck and Aarsal, apparently to stem smugglers operating in the area. Following bilateral discussions, work has begun on the removal of a number of these posts. This episode shows that progress can be achieved on the basis of direct bilateral consultations between Lebanon and Syria, and also reinforces the need for the delineation of the two countries' borders.

On 17 May, units of the Lebanese army clashed in the western Bekaa valley with members of an armed Palestinian faction based outside the refugee camps. According to reports, one Lebanese soldier and one Palestinian gunman were wounded. A Lebanese soldier was also briefly held by the Palestinian group. This incident highlights the importance of implementing the decision taken in the national dialogue to disarm within six months all Palestinian factions situated outside the camps.

Within Lebanon, the sixth and seventh rounds of the national dialogue took place on 28 April and 16 May, respectively. The question of the presidency was discussed in both rounds, although there has been no conclusion. Participants therefore put aside the issue of the presidency and began a discussion on Hizbollah's weapons and the development of a national defence strategy. This will be taken up when the dialogue next convenes, on 8 June. We welcome and encourage the stated intention of Lebanese leaders to continue the national dialogue, which is the most effective way to address the critical issues facing the country, and we welcome the support of Lebanon's neighbours for this important initiative.

Mr. Roed-Larsen has reported to the Council separately on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004), and the Council recently adopted resolution 1680 (2006) dealing with the need for further action by the relevant parties. In addition, members will be aware that the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission's Serge Brammertz will be presenting his interim report to the Council in early June.

The example set by the Lebanese through their national dialogue is a good one, and the coming dialogue in Palestine could be another example of constructive engagement by the stakeholders in addressing critical issues. The parties in Palestine need to make every effort to avoid a further deterioration of the situation. National dialogue is an opportunity to reassert the goals and institutions shared by all Palestinians and to agree on ways to pursue a negotiated two-State solution to the conflict along the lines defined by the road map. We sincerely hope that

the dialogue will become a channel for communication and for conciliation.

We also reiterate the central importance of negotiations for the future of the political process between Israel and the Palestinians. Unilateral moves simply cannot resolve issues such as the border between the State of Israel and a future Palestinian State, which must be mutually agreed. After all, we are talking here of the borders of two States, not one. Any changes to the 1967 lines can be set only through negotiated agreement. In that regard, we welcome last weekend's meeting and the intention of both parties to work together on these very critical and difficult issues. A two-State solution can be achieved only through negotiations, and its achievement will be an important element of ensuring sustainable peace and security in this region, to which all of us within and outside of the Council, including the United Nations and the international community at large, are committed.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Gambari for his briefing.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5444

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5444th meeting

Wednesday, 24 May 2006, 7 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Ikouebe	(Congo)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	China	Mr. Li Junhua
	Denmark	Mr. Pedersen
	France	Mr. Duclos
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Greece	Mrs. Telalian
	Japan	Mr. Haneda
	Peru	Mr. Ruiz Rosas
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Bader
	Russian Federation	Mr. Shcherbak
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mrs. Taj
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation concerning Iraq

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06-36099 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Iraq

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Iraq, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Sumaida'ie (Iraq) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

> "The Security Council welcomes the inauguration on 20 May of Iraq's constitutionally elected Government and congratulates the people of Iraq on this milestone in their country's political transition.
>
> "The Council is particularly encouraged by the fact that the Government is representative of Iraq's many diverse communities and expresses its hope that the Ministers of Defence, Interior and National Security Affairs will be appointed as soon as possible. The Security Council encourages the new Government to work tirelessly to promote national reconciliation through dialogue and inclusion and to build an atmosphere in which sectarianism is rejected. The Security Council, at the same time, urges all Iraqis to participate in the political process peacefully, demanding that those who continue to use violence lay down their arms. The Council wholly condemns acts of terrorism in Iraq, including recent horrific attacks on civilians and religious sites aimed callously at provoking intercommunal tensions.
>
> "The Security Council underlines the high expectations in the new Government to deliver improvements in security and stability, in human rights and the rule of law, in the provision of essential services, and in economic progress and prosperity. The Council urges the Government to work effectively and energetically to this end. The Council also strongly urges all States and relevant international organizations to continue and enhance their help to Iraq's sovereign Government at this crucial time. The Council notes the particular role of Iraq's neighbours and calls on them to conform to relevant Security Council resolutions and to examine how they can reinforce their contribution. In this context, the Council also looks forward to the continued efforts of the League of Arab States, including the forthcoming conference in Baghdad, in support of the political process the Council has endorsed.
>
> "The Security Council reaffirms its support for a federal, democratic, pluralist and unified Iraq, as a responsible member of the international community, in which there is stability, prosperity and full respect for human rights and the rule of law. The Security Council also reaffirms the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2006/24.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 7.05 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5445

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5445th meeting

Thursday, 25 May 2006, 10.10 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Ikouebe	(Congo)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	China	Mr. Zhang Yishan
	Denmark	Mr. Pedersen
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Japan	Mr. Oshima
	Peru	Ms. Tincopa
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Qahtani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Galbavý
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Brooker
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in Timor-Leste

Letter dated 24 May 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/319)

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06-36358 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Timor-Leste

Letter dated 24 May 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/319)

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Portugal and Timor-Leste in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Borges (Timor-Leste) took a seat at the Council table; the representatives of the other aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2006/319, which contains a letter from the Secretary-General transmitting a letter from the President, Prime Minister and Speaker of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste.

I also wish to draw the attention of Council members to documents S/2006/320, S/2006/325, S/2006/326 and S/2006/327, which contain letters from Australia, New Zealand and Portugal.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council received briefings from the Secretariat on the situation in Timor-Leste on 24 and 25 May 2006.

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern at developments in Timor-Leste, recognizes the urgency of the deteriorating security situation and condemns acts of violence against people as well as destruction of property.

"The Security Council urges the Government of Timor-Leste to take all necessary steps to end the violence with due respect for human rights and to restore a secure and stable environment.

"The Security Council urges all parties in Timor-Leste to refrain from violence and to participate in the democratic process.

"The Security Council acknowledges the request made by the Government of Timor-Leste to the Governments of Portugal, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia to dispatch defence and security forces under bilateral arrangements.

"The Security Council welcomes the positive responses made by the Governments concerned and fully supports their deployment of defence and security forces to urgently assist Timor-Leste in restoring and maintaining security.

"The Security Council looks forward to close cooperation between the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste and the forces of the Governments concerned.

"The Security Council welcomes the initiatives of the Secretary-General, including his intention to send a special envoy to Timor-Leste in order to facilitate the political dialogue.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to follow closely the situation in Timor-Leste and to report on developments, as necessary.

"The Security Council will continue to monitor closely the situation in Timor-Leste and confirms that it will act, as appropriate."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2006/25.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5446

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5446th meeting

Tuesday, 30 May 2006, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Ikouebe	(Congo)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	China	Mr. Zhang Yishan
	Denmark	Ms. Løj
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Oshima
	Peru	Mr. De Rivero
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Bader
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mrs. Taj
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

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06-36518 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Austria, Cuba, Israel, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Ukraine in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, the representatives of the aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend invitations under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Ambassador César Mayoral, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities; Ambassador Ellen Margrethe Løj, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), concerning counter-terrorism; and Ambassador Peter Burian, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

It is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/2006/276, containing the text of a letter dated 4 May 2006 from the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee transmitting the Committee's nineteenth 90-day work programme from April to June 2006.

At this meeting, we will hear briefings by the Chairmen of the 1267 Committee, the 1373 Committee and the 1540 Committee.

I now give the floor to Ambassador César Mayoral, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities.

Mr. Mayoral (*spoke in Spanish*): I am delivering my 120-day briefing to the Council as Chairman of the Committee pursuant to paragraph 16 of resolution 1617 (2005). Since my previous briefing to the Council, four individuals have been added to the list, and the Committee has also approved a number of other changes to the list. The Committee is resolved to improve the quality of the list — that has been one of my chief concerns since I took over the chairmanship — and to that end a number of measures have been introduced.

With regard to dialogue with States and visits to selected States, between 28 April and 8 May we visited selected countries pursuant to paragraph 15 of resolution 1617 (2005). We visited Qatar, Yemen and Saudi Arabia — the latter two of which have suffered from attacks by Al-Qaida. All three countries expressed, through their authorities, their commitment to support the work of the Committee and the implementation of relevant sanctions measures. Furthermore, I believe that all three countries have made significant contributions to the fight against Al-Qaida, which further illustrates their concerted efforts to combat international terrorism.

Qatar is actively engaged in the work of the Committee and offers us a clear insight into areas which are of specific concern to Islamic States. The visit to Qatar provided an opportunity for us to learn more about its efforts to counter international terrorism and its desire to work in the Committee to further improve the sanctions regime. Yemen, too, is an important country in the fight against Al-Qaida, given that several individuals on the list are nationals of that country. As the Council knows, a number of listed individuals and entities also come from Saudi Arabia.

Many governmental officials from all three countries expressed concerns about certain aspects of the Committee's work. One area discussed was the need for greater consultation with relevant States prior to placing any individual on the list. They expressed the view that such consultations would not only improve compliance by Member States but also serve as a way of obtaining sufficient identifiers. Another area addressed concerned Al-Qaida's use of the Internet. Many officials commended the Committee's Monitoring Team for having organized meetings of heads and deputy heads of security and intelligence agencies to discuss that issue and took note of the suggestions that resulted from those meetings. Recently, the Monitoring Team of the Committee submitted a paper on Al-Qaida's use of the Internet, which is currently under consideration in the Committee.

In addition, the officials considered Al-Qaida's ideology to be the greatest long-term threat within those countries. In that regard, we also learned about efforts to counter that ideology and to draw a majority of the people away from it. In Saudi Arabia in particular, these efforts were seen as directly linked to attempts to dispel the preconceived notions existing in some Western media that identify Islam with terrorism. Needless to say, we fully agree that there is a need to fight such prejudice, and I invited the Saudi authorities to brief the Committee directly about that project.

Since my most recent briefing to the Council, the members of the Monitoring Team have visited Africa, Asia and Europe to discuss issues related to the effective implementation of the sanctions regime. An expert member of the Team also accompanied me on my recent trip to Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and the Team has participated in further meetings of chiefs and assistant chiefs of security and intelligence services from a group of Islamic countries. Recently, the Monitoring Team held a meeting with chiefs of security and intelligence services from the region to address the specific threat posed by Al-Qaida-related groups in Somalia and the problem of effective implementation of the sanctions regime.

On 30 March, the Committee issued a press release in which it recalled paragraph 14 of resolution 1617 (2005) and invited States to send representatives to discuss relevant issues with the Committee in greater depth. Upon approval by the Committee, representatives of Germany, Sweden and Switzerland attended the Committee meeting held on 15 May to present the joint efforts of the three Governments to increase the effectiveness of the sanctions. Their efforts are based on a paper written by the Watson Institute for International Studies. The three Governments' representatives referred to that document and emphasized the legal and political difficulties — including listing and delisting procedures — posed by sanctions targeting individuals. That presentation and the subsequent discussion were useful for the Committee, particularly as it is preparing to consider revising its listing and delisting guidelines and procedures. The presentation also enabled the Committee to become informed about certain problems that States may experience when dealing with sanctions-related issues, particularly in the absence of transparent procedures.

The Committee continues to place great emphasis on improving the transparency of its work, which includes stepping up the dialogue between the Committee and Member States. That effort is reflected in, inter alia, the notes verbales sent to States on 25 April. The first note (SCA/2/06(9)), recalling resolution 1452 (2002), specifically reminded States of the exceptions provided for in the sanctions regime, particularly with regard to the freezing of assets. It emphasized that States can release funds — even for basic needs — only if they previously inform the Committee of their intention to do so. Another note (SCA/2/06(8)) clarified the Committee's procedures concerning deceased individuals whose names appear on the Consolidated List. With regard to requests for the delisting of such persons, the Committee decided that it would consider such requests by States on a case-by-case basis; the requesting State should send to the Committee the name of the deceased person on the List, together with a statement of case justifying the delisting request. That will usually require a death certificate or a similar official document confirming the death. Furthermore, the Committee considered it important to stress that the requesting State should also determine whether any legal beneficiary of the deceased person's estate, or any joint owner of his or her assets, also appears on the Consolidated List and to inform the Committee accordingly. The clarifications provided in both notes are an example of the Committee's determination to address issues that Member States have identified as important for improving their implementation efforts.

For several weeks, the Committee has considered the recommendations contained in the fourth report of the Monitoring Team (S/2006/154), and it will soon submit a report to the Security Council on its position regarding them. Consideration of the Team's recommendations always gives the Committee an opportunity to think about how to further improve the sanctions regime.

The Monitoring Team continues to provide professional assistance to the Committee in the form of effective support for the monitoring of sanctions implementation. The Team has presented various proposals to the Committee on issues related to the Committee's current work on its guidelines and has suggested further improvements to the Consolidated List and to the Committee's website, which are now under consideration. Following the submission of its fourth report to the Committee, in accordance with the provisions of annex 1 (c) of resolution 1617 (2005), the Monitoring Team has contributed to and participated in all the Committee's discussions on the 38 recommendations contained in the report. Here, I wish to clarify that the Monitoring Team has cooperated very closely with me throughout this period. Its work is very important, and I believe that all members of the Committee value that work.

At the same time, at the Committee's request, the Monitoring Team has been compiling the checklists submitted by States in accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 1617 (2005) and will be presenting its preliminary analysis to the Committee. I wish to clarify that six checklists have been submitted to date. Finally, in conformity with annex 1 (c) of resolution 1617 (2005), the Monitoring Team must submit its fifth report to the Committee by 31 July 2006 at the latest. It must also help the Committee to prepare an updated written assessment of the steps taken by States to implement the sanctions measures described in paragraph 1 of resolution 1617 (2005), also by 31 July 2006.

The Team has continued to strengthen its links with international and regional bodies by enhancing its productive relationship with Interpol and by establishing new areas of cooperation with the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Air Transport Association, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other relevant United Nations bodies, in coordination with the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate. The Team has also continued to coordinate its travel plans with the Directorate, and in April this year a member of the Team participated in a Counter-Terrorism Working Group conference with the Directorate and the group of experts of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

The Monitoring Team has also continued to work closely with the Executive Directorate and the experts supporting the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), to examine ways to assist the 31 States that tend to be late in reporting, or that do not report at all, to the three Committees. At the same time, the Team has made some proposals, which are currently under consideration by the Committee, on how to assist the 44 States that have not yet submitted to the Committee their reports under resolution 1455 (2003). At the Committee's request, the Team has also provided significant assistance to the Government of Afghanistan to ensure that its national reconciliation programme takes full account of the sanctions regime against former senior members of the Taliban. The Team has continued to work with the Government of Afghanistan with regard to requests for the exclusion of members of the Taliban from the consolidated list.

With regard to the future work of the Committee and the Monitoring Team and emerging challenges, the Committee will focus its work in the immediate future on the following activities.

First, in the context of revising its guidelines, the Committee will take up the matter of its procedures for the listing and delisting of names. That will be a very difficult and arduous task for the Committee, but it is nevertheless a very important one. The Committee is aware of the great expectations that have emerged on the part of States with regard to the revision of procedures. Some of the Member States on the Committee have already received some ideas, and those will be discussed in June. At the same time, the Committee would like to believe that the revised listing and delisting procedures will certainly benefit implementation measures taken by States.

Secondly, with regard to further improving the quality of the list, the consolidated list plays a very important deterrent role, despite its current imperfections. Nevertheless, its completeness and accuracy are essential for the success of established sanctions measures. We therefore encourage all

Member States to submit the names of individuals and entities that should be included on the list as a result of their association with Al-Qaida and the Taliban. For its part, the Committee should consider without delay the best way to assist States in their implementation efforts in cases when the identity of an individual is not certain due to the lack of sufficient identifying information on the list.

Thirdly, the Committee will focus on completing its consideration of the recommendations contained in the fourth report of the Monitoring Team and will submit to the Security Council a report reflecting the Committee's position in that regard.

Fourthly, the Committee will review the report expected from the Monitoring Team regarding the checklist referred to in annex II of resolution 1617 (2005). The checklist is a newly introduced tool to monitor adherence to sanctions on the part of States. Its effectiveness has not yet been ascertained.

The Committee will also continue to discuss, in cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the 1540 Committee, how to enhance cooperation, including as regards Committee reports.

The Committee has before it various issues of great complexity and urgency. The Committee's agenda also continues to grow, which has required it to revisit certain matters several times in order to ensure that there is no omission. As Chairman of the Committee, I would like to assure everyone here that I will spare no effort to intensify the work of the Committee in order to make as much progress as possible in our work.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the Committee's determination to make further progress in our work. I would therefore like to encourage the members of the Committee to continue to take a proactive and creative approach to our responsibilities. I would also like to repeat my invitation to Member States to benefit from the opportunity provided by resolution 1617 (2005) and to send representatives to the Committee to discuss in greater depth matters relating to sanctions. As stated by the Secretary-General in his recent report on a global counter-terrorism strategy, we can only combat the threat of terrorism successfully when we are unified and persistent in our efforts.

Before I conclude, I would like publicly to thank the authorities of Qatar, Yemen and Saudi Arabia for their kindness to me and the members of the Committee and the Monitoring Team who visited those countries.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Ambassador Mayoral for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Ellen Margrethe Løj, Chairperson of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), concerning counter-terrorism.

Ms. Løj: As Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), I would like to review the Committee's activities since the Committee's last report to the Council, in February 2006. I will inform the Council about the Committee's nineteenth work programme, for the current three-month period ending 30 June 2006.

Before I begin, I would like to thank the head of the Committee's Executive Directorate (CTED), Mr. Javier Rupérez, and his team, as well as the Secretariat staff, for their valuable support.

Based on the recommendations from the Council's comprehensive review of the CTC Executive Directorate last December, the Committee decided to focus its work for the first part of this year on three areas, namely, on how to revise the reporting regime, how to enhance dialogue with Member States in need of technical assistance, and how to deepen the Committee's relations with international, regional and subregional organizations. I would like to give the Council an update on the progress we have made on those issues, and to explain what the Committee sees as the main upcoming challenges.

First, with regard to the reporting regime, many States have, on various occasions, raised the issue of "reporting fatigue". The seemingly endless requests to report to the Council on counter-terrorism — which, to be fair, come mostly from the CTC — have led States to ask what the purpose of reporting is. The point has been made that the extensive requests to report have taken away essential resources that could otherwise have been spent on implementation. In that regard, the Committee will also continue to discuss, in cooperation with the 1540 and the 1267 Committees, how to enhance cooperation, including with regard to reporting. But let me point out that, while I do understand those concerns, the many reports that the CTC has received from States have created a solid

foundation for the Committee's ability to advice and assist States in their implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). Without reports, therefore, we cannot do our work.

That having been said, the Committee also recognizes the need to look into revising the reporting regime. As a first step, the Committee has decided to base its discussions on a thorough analysis of individual States' accomplishments in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). To that end, the Committee has adopted an analytical tool — the so-called preliminary implementation assessment — that provides a systematic and transparent way to monitor the extent to which States have implemented the obligations and provisions laid down in resolution 1373 (2001). It is the Committee's hope that such a systematic overview will deepen the Committee's discussions on how best to advise and assist States in implementation, including if States do not yet meet the requirements of resolution 1373 (2001).

That analytical tool is still being tested. However, it is my hope that, once we have gained some experience with it, the Committee can use that tool as a basis for improving our dialogue with States on setting priorities for their respective ways forward, including areas where there are needs for assistance.

While the introduction of that tool should ease the reporting burden on States, States will regularly have to update the Committee on developments in their implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). In those cases in which the Committee finds that the most efficient way to get such information is through reporting, then such reports will be solicited, but I can assure the Council that the Committee will continue to seek ways to ease the reporting burden on States and to allow more resources to go towards enhancing implementation.

Before I move on, I would also like to mention that the Committee has again contacted all States which are behind in their reporting to the Committee. I hope that those States will take some comfort in the Committee's updated working methods and that they will re-establish dialogue with the Committee. I would also urge States that might need assistance in preparing the report to let us know. Without a report, it is not possible for the Committee to identify priorities for further implementation, including possible needs for assistance, or to play a facilitating role in ensuring that such needs are filled.

CTC's continuing visits to Member States, upon their consent, remain an important tool in our work. We continue to enhance our cooperation with the G8-led Counter-Terrorism Action Group. Since I last reported to the Council, CTED has visited the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. I would like to express the Committee's gratitude to the Government in Skopje for its hospitality and spirit of cooperation.

Also, the Committee has approved more country visits, and CTED is currently working with the States concerned regarding the preparations. I would like to thank those Governments for welcoming us. It is the Committee's hope and intention that those visits will prove helpful to States that are already engaged in the fight against terrorism. A key to success continues to be thorough follow-up to the visits. During the past months, the Committee has taken stock of the first visits and discussed what more can be done to ensure that the visits lead to concrete, measurable results.

I have already touched upon some aspects of the Committee's ongoing work to facilitate technical assistance. As I informed the Council at the last briefing, the Committee has prepared policy guidance and adopted CTED's implementation plan in that regard. CTED, in turn, is now working on creating results through fulfilling the implementation plan. The Committee looks forward to hearing from CTED that the efforts have led to concrete, measurable outcomes. In the meantime, the Committee appreciates CTED's outreach to potential donors to establish who would be willing and interested in providing assistance, and in which area.

Besides discussions with potential donors in New York, the practice has also been established of CTED's meeting with potential donors specifically in connection with visits to States. I would like to encourage all potential donors to engage with CTED on those issues. The Committee will continue to discuss what more can be done to strengthen cooperation with donors, including through organizing an informal meeting with donors and assistance providers.

As I mentioned at the beginning of my briefing, the Committee is also looking into how to strengthen cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations. First of all, the Committee

has begun efforts to strengthen its relationship with several African regional and subregional organizations, as well as with the Caribbean Community. We have also embarked on preparations for the next and fifth special meeting of CTC with international, regional and subregional organizations. The goal is to ensure that the meeting will be results-oriented.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Pacific Island Forum for inviting me to participate in the recent meeting of its working group on counter-terrorism, which took place in Auckland, New Zealand, at the end of April. It was very interesting for me to hear the participants explain the successes and challenges they had encountered in implementing resolution 1373 (2001). I was impressed to learn how much those States — many of them among the smallest Members of the United Nations — have accomplished in recent years in their fight against terrorism. While many of those States are behind on reporting to the Committee, that has certainly not led to a halt in implementation. With the help of donors, the region is now making a concerted effort to ensure that most of the Pacific Island Forum members bring their reporting to the Committee up to date before too long. That type of regional cooperation is very fruitful and I hope that other regions can be inspired by such cooperation, but I would also like to stress the corresponding commitment made on behalf of the Committee to the Pacific States that, if they update on reporting, the CTC will use that information to assist them in identifying priorities in their implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and to facilitate assistance in areas where we have mutually agreed that there are such needs. The Committee counts on the cooperation of potential donors to achieve those results.

The Committee is continuing its discussions on how to take into account, in the course of its activities, the fact that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with all their obligations under international law, and that States should adopt such measures in accordance with international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law. I would like to inform the Council that the Committee has now agreed on guidance for CTED in that regard.

Before I conclude, let me take stock of the challenges ahead for the Committee.

First of all, the Committee will spend some time testing its newly-developed analytical tool, both in and of itself and as a basis for enhanced dialogue with States on implementation. The goal is twofold — first, to ensure systematic, transparent and effective monitoring of States' implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), leading to the targeted and prioritized enhancement of States' implementation of the obligations and provisions in the resolution; and secondly, to ensure that requests for further reporting will be targeted, with a view to easing the reporting burden on States.

Secondly, the Committee will continue to discuss how the visits to States can be more results-oriented, including through the design of a thorough follow-up process.

Thirdly, the Committee will continue its discussions on how to ensure that we achieve concrete, measurable results through the facilitation of assistance, leading to results in enhanced implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

Finally, the Committee will begin its analysis of States' reporting on resolution 1624 (2005) in light of the requirement to report to the Council within a year of the adoption of that resolution — in other words, by 14 September 2006. I encourage all States that have not yet submitted a report on their 1624 implementation to do so as soon as possible in order to ensure that the analysis provided to the Security Council is based on as extensive reporting as possible.

The implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) remains crucial in the international community's fight against terrorism. Developments since I reported last have shown once again that the Committee's main task remains vital and urgent. Support from and cooperation with Member States remains invaluable. I would therefore like to thank Member States for their important contribution.

That concludes my statement in my capacity as Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. I would now like to make the following statement in my national capacity.

As members know, the Chairmen of the three counter-terrorism committees rarely speak in their national capacities at these briefings. I choose to do so today to reiterate a point which is very important to Denmark: the question of due process guarantees in the

1267 Committee. Before I proceed, however, I would like to fully associate Denmark with the statement of the European Union to be delivered shortly by the representative of Austria.

In the fight against terrorism we often get the sense that we are walking on a razor's edge to strike the right balance between preventive and swift action against terrorists and adequate safeguards for the individual, not least for those unjustly targeted. Getting this balance right strengthens the legitimacy of the sanctions regime and thereby, in the view of Denmark, its efficiency.

The Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime remains as important as ever in the international fight against terrorism. But on various occasions States have expressed concern that it does not meet fundamental due process standards, thus indicating that the Council may not be getting the razor's edge balance exactly right. This issue demands the immediate attention of all members of the Security Council.

In the view of Denmark, the Council could strike a better balance by taking a close look at both its listing and delisting procedures. Denmark has focused particularly on delisting. We presented a proposal in the 1267 Committee last year to establish an independent review mechanism — an ombudsman — to which individuals and entities on the Committee's list would have direct access. When petitioned, or on its own initiative, this mechanism would make independent recommendations to the Committee for its consideration. As is the case today, the Security Council will maintain its prerogative to decide on any delisting. At the same time, our proposal will provide listed individuals and entities with the right to access the mechanism directly, without a State as an intermediary. It would also provide for a review independent of the Committee.

Denmark very much looks for forward to discussing this and other interesting proposals in the 1267 Committee shortly, and we are ready to engage constructively in order to try to live up to the Chairman's expressed wishes for early results.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Ambassador Løj for her briefing as Chairman of the 1373 Committee.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Peter Burian, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

Mr. Burian: I have the honour to brief the Security Council on the most recent activities undertaken by the 1540 Committee and to outline its future efforts to promote compliance by all States with resolution 1540 (2004) through the achievement of the implementation of its requirements.

As members are aware, on 27 April, the Security Council examined the report of the Committee which addressed the status of implementation of resolution 1540 as of April 2006. The same day, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1673 (2006) and emphasized the importance of all States fully implementing resolution 1540 (2004).

With resolution 1540 (2004), the Security Council adopted the first international instrument which deals with weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials in an integrated and comprehensive manner. The main objective of the resolution is to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials, and to deter non-State actors from gaining access to such items and from illicit trafficking in them. It establishes binding obligations for all States regarding non-proliferation and is aimed at preventing and deterring illicit access to such weapons, their means of delivery and weapon-related materials. The resolution requests all States to report on measures they have taken or intend to take to implement their obligations under the resolution.

Continuous monitoring of and support for the efforts of all States to fully implement the provisions of the resolution require a lasting effort by the Council. It therefore decided to extend the mandate of the Committee for a period of two years, until 27 April 2008. It also decided that the Committee shall intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation by all States of resolution 1540 (2004) through a work programme which shall include the compilation of information on the status of States' implementation of all aspects of resolution 1540 (2004): outreach, dialogue, assistance and cooperation. The Council also decided that the Committee's work programme shall address, in particular, all aspects of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of resolution 1540 (2004).

As of 30 May 2006, 129 States Members of the United Nations and one organization have submitted first national reports to the Committee; 62 Member States have yet to submit their first report. In response to the examination of the first national reports by the Committee, 83 States provided additional information. Facilitation of reporting and conduct of outreach activities to promote States' reporting and implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) will remain among the top priorities of our future work.

With respect to reporting, the Committee intends to approach again all United Nations Member States that have yet to submit a first report. Based on its previous experience of examining national reports submitted by States, the Committee decided to assist the national authorities of those States in the preparation of a first report on the implementation of the resolution. I will also continue the practice of reaching out to the members of all regional groups in New York to discuss issues relating to reporting as well as implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) generally.

The Committee, with the support of Member States and the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, will continue its other outreach activities to promote States' implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), consistent with resolution 1673 (2006). Three regional seminars aimed at raising awareness about proliferation problems worldwide, facilitating further reporting and advancing the implementation process will be organized in the second part of this year in China, Ghana and Peru. Within existing resources, the Committee also will continue its practice of informing organizations outside the United Nations about its work at relevant meetings and conferences. I will make full use of these opportunities to address, in particular, issues of reporting and implementation.

As part of the Committee's efforts to promote information-sharing concerning States' implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), I am also pleased to announce that on 19 May 2006, the Committee decided to publish a legislative database on its official website. This database contains links to public sources of relevant information about national legislative and other regulatory measures of States which have submitted reports on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The Committee developed the database to provide additional information on laws, regulations and other measures related to States' implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and to facilitate the exchange of information on the implementation efforts of States. The Committee will regularly update the database. It will encourage States to make appropriate use of the background information provided through the database, as well as of legislative advice provided by international organizations, when enacting national implementation laws and measures.

The Committee will interact and cooperate with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations in order to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The 1540 Committee will maintain close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the 1267 Committee. The Committee's experts will continue to work closely with their colleagues, making every effort to maximize synergies between and among the experts of the three Committees. As part of those efforts, the Committee's experts have been working with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the 1267 Committee Monitoring Team to develop proposals for improving reporting and addressing the problem of late submission of reports in a coordinated manner. We also are making use of country visits by the CTC and the 1267 Committee in order to raise the issue of reporting.

The Committee, through its experts, will continue to act as a clearing house on assistance, including by collecting up-to-date information on the issue and by informally contacting States to inquire whether they might be interested in receiving information on offers and requests for assistance.

In its future work on the examination of national reports, the Committee, through its experts, will identify national practices in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) that might be used in providing further general and specific guidance, upon request, to States seeking legislative assistance in implementing the resolution.

The Committee will also invite those States that offer assistance and those that request assistance to take a proactive approach on a bilateral basis, including making use of offers by international organizations, in order to contribute to capacity-building. In this regard, the Committee looks forward to the results of the donor conference on assistance for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), which will be organized by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in Geneva on 6 and 7 June 2006.

A draft programme of work, which will cover a 12-month period, is currently under consideration by Committee members. The programme will be based on the provisions of resolution 1540 (2004) and resolution 1673 (2006). It also will reflect the recommendations contained in the Committee's report to the Council of 25 April 2006 (S/2006/257).

On behalf of the Committee, I look forward to the cooperation of all States as the Committee goes forward with its future work.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Ambassador Burian for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Council members who wish to make statements.

Mr. Vassilakis (Greece): We thank the Chairmen of the three counter-terrorism Committees for their informative briefings today. Such briefings give the wider United Nations membership the opportunity to be informed and updated on the efforts made by the three Committees to build on the effectiveness of the United Nations system of targeted sanctions, counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Greece associates itself with the statement to be made later on behalf of the European Union by the Permanent Representative of Austria.

The fight against terrorism remains vitally important, as terrorism is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, as well as to the security of our citizens and our societies. This is obvious in the light of the many devastating terrorist attacks worldwide that have inflicted mass casualties involving thousands of people. The scale of destruction, however, would be much worse if terrorists succeeded in getting access to weapons of mass destruction.

This means that terrorism can be effectively defeated only through a global response, with the United Nations playing a leading role, and through the adoption of a comprehensive and action-oriented counter-terrorism strategy. In this respect, we support the Secretary-General's report of 27 April 2006 (A/60/825), which is centred on elements and recommendations that can assist the United Nations in addressing and confronting the phenomenon of terrorism in a more effective and coordinated manner.

What is also frightening about terrorism is not only that it poses a threat against our lives, but that it also undermines the very values and principles on which our societies are founded: freedom, democracy and the rule of law. That is why we need to fight and defeat terrorism — without, however, compromising our values and principles. We must ensure that counter-terrorism measures are in conformity with international law, including human rights, international humanitarian and refugee law.

The sanctions regime established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) remains a critical tool in the fight against terrorism. We welcome the continuous efforts of the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions Committee to bring further improvements to this regime, and particularly to its Consolidated List and to its guidelines on issues related to listing and delisting procedures. The recommendations put forward by the Monitoring Team in its fourth report (S/2006/154, enclosure) provide valuable assistance and guidance to the Committee, and we support their early adoption.

We believe, however, that the Committee should further address concerns regarding the need to establish procedural fairness and an effective remedy within the current system of listing and delisting procedures. The establishment of such fair and clear procedures will, in our view, enhance the effectiveness and credibility of sanctions and will reduce their negative effects on innocent individuals.

As regards the issue of procedural fairness, we are of the view that targeted individuals and entities should be notified of their listing and should be allowed to have direct access to the Committee's delisting procedures. Likewise, we believe that a review mechanism should be in place in order to consider delisting requests in case of wrongful application of a targeted sanction.

In that respect, we welcome the initiatives taken by Denmark and France, each aimed at addressing, respectively, the two aspects of that problem. Likewise, we commend Germany, Sweden and Switzerland for sponsoring the recent academic study of the Watson Institute on strengthening targeted sanctions through fair and clear procedures, which we see as a new process regarding the improvement of targeted sanctions and their implementation. The paper contains

useful suggestions that should be thoroughly studied by the sanctions Committee.

We commend the work carried out by the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its Executive Directorate (CTED), and we fully support the three areas in which the Committee has decided to focus its future activities. The revision of the reporting system, the enhancement of the dialogue with Member States and the deepening of cooperation with international and regional organizations are key elements for better implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). Making visits to Member States is another important tool of effective monitoring and, if properly used, can be of great help in that respect. We attach great importance to proper follow-up to these visits. We also support the Committee's efforts to facilitate and coordinate the provision of technical assistance to Member States.

Lastly, we welcome the recent adoption by the Committee of policy guidance for the CTED on how the Directorate should take into account human rights concerns in the course of its activities. We expect that the CTED will continue to effectively implement these guidelines in its day-to-day interaction with Member States. We are certain that these measures will enhance the counter-terrorism policy of the sanctions Committees.

Greece firmly supports the work carried out by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), given the seriousness of the threat that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related material poses to humankind.

The recent adoption of resolution 1673 (2006), which extends the mandate of the Committee for another period of two years, is a positive development that will enable the Council to focus on the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in all its aspects. In that respect, we urge States which have not submitted their reports to do so, in order to allow the Committee to carry out its most demanding task.

Finally, I would like to stress the importance of facilitating the provision of technical assistance to States which lack the capacity to fulfil their obligations under resolution 1540 (2004).

Sir Emyr Jones Parry (United Kingdom): I should like to start by thanking the three Committee Chairmen for their detailed briefings and for their and their Committees' work throughout the year. I should like also to thank the experts and staff members who support the Committees. I wish also to associate myself with the comments to be made later by the representative of Austria on behalf of the European Union.

Terrorism continues to constitute one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Substantial progress has been made on the counter-terrorism agenda over recent years, but the international community must continue to stand together and to do more. Only by helping all States to strengthen their capacity to tackle terrorism can we hope to succeed in the medium and the longer term.

Let me begin with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), whose work is an essential element in the international non-proliferation effort. The analysis provided in the recent report is particularly useful, and we welcome the recent extension of the Committee's mandate, as set out in resolution 1673 (2006). The work of the Committee so far has been a major achievement, but, as we have heard, there is still a great deal to do. We particularly welcome the chance for the Committee to tackle the issue of outreach. The Committee has an essential role to play in promoting bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes both between States and with international and regional organizations. That will allow individual States to develop effective action plans and to learn from good practice. It will increase access to technical assistance and will ultimately steer all States towards achieving full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

I should like to move on to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). Following the Council's recommendations last December, the United Kingdom welcomes the development and use of new analytical tools which allow States and the Committee to move away from the never-ending reporting cycle and shift to a tailored dialogue. Those tools also allow for consistency in analysis. We also value the country visits made by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and attach great importance to timely and accurate follow-up to those visits. The Committee will be judged by the concrete results that derive from all those visits.

The United Kingdom particularly supports a strong focus on technical assistance. The issue has been under discussion for some time, and there is now an opportunity to move more quickly. Thus, we look forward to seeing substantial results in the form of the assistance delivered and the resulting improvement in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). Assistance is critical to the success of counter-terrorism efforts. We need to be more consistent in agreeing on what is needed, more aware about what is already being provided, and more coherent and committed in how we get assistance delivered.

Now let me say a few words about the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions Committee, established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The very productive programme of visits, particularly by the Monitoring Team, and the efforts with the Government of Afghanistan are very encouraging. The United Kingdom fully supports the reconciliation process in Afghanistan, and we hope that the Committee will do all it can to aid that process.

We encourage the Committee to maintain and increase its progress on listing and delisting. This is an important issue whose resolution is overdue, and which last year's world summit asked us to address. Now we must make rapid progress on it. The recent paper by the Watson Institute for International Studies should help inform the Committee's discussions. We also look forward to hearing the Committee's views on the recommendations contained in the fourth report of the Monitoring Team. We should like also to urge States to submit their checklists to the Committee, as called for in resolution 1617 (2005). The focus should be on the quality of each list, ensuring that the Committee and Member States have as much information as possible.

We look forward to the continued coordination of work and close cooperation among the three Committees. We remain committed to working on the issue of reporting to make sure we have the right balance in the reporting requirements of the Committees and the consequent burden on States.

At the most recent open briefing to the Council (see S/PV.5375), we expressed our desire to encourage other States to submit information requested under resolution 1624 (2005) concerning incitement, by taking a proactive approach and voluntarily submitting information. The United Kingdom, for its part, submitted its reply to the CTC earlier this month. We should like to call on all other States to do the same without delay. That will allow the CTC to have the basis for the best possible information to report to the Council in September, as called for in that resolution.

The issue of incitement to terrorism remains a central one for the British Government; we must take steps to tackle it. The United Kingdom legislative programme for preventing terrorism and pursuing terrorists and those who support terrorist organization has been under review, not least on that issue of incitement. Most notable among the new legislation is the Terrorism Act 2006, which contains a comprehensive package of measures designed to ensure that the police, intelligence agencies and courts all have the tools they require to tackle terrorism and bring perpetrators to justice.

There has been much discussion in recent weeks of the Secretary-General's proposal for a counter-terrorism strategy for the United Nations. The United Kingdom wholly and wholeheartedly supports the Secretary-General's idea. Its operational focus is exactly right, and it sends a strong message that terrorism can never be justified, no matter what the context. We also welcome its pragmatic approach and its focus on capacity-building and on maintaining counter-terrorism work throughout the United Nations system. We welcome particularly the fact that the whole United Nations membership is engaged in this discussion of how to tackle a threat which aims to undermine the values and principles of the Organization, and we hope that the membership will all be able to come together and quickly agree on a strong strategy building on the areas in which we are all able to reach agreement.

International terrorism has been and will continue to be a grave problem for the global community. The best way to tackle it is together. That requires a real commitment from us all: in the Security Council and outside it.

Mrs. Taj (United Republic of Tanzania): We thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this debate, and we appreciate the work of the three Committees. We are grateful to Ambassador Mayoral, Ambassador Løj and Ambassador Burian for their well articulated briefings.

My delegation is pleased to see a well coordinated modus operandi and interconnectedness and complementarities among the three Committees.

We note in particular that the Monitoring Team of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the panel of experts of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) are pursuing a common approach on reporting to Member States. The Committees have found ways to minimize travel costs by arranging joint trips to Africa, Asia and Europe and have been jointly considering the sanctions regimes and effective measures for their implementation. At the same time they have been helping reporting and non-reporting States, coordinating technical assistance to States and addressing issues that Member States have identified as important for their implementation efforts.

The visit to my country by the CTED delegation, led by Mr. Javier Rupérez, from 13 to 17 February, is a case in point. The delegation was composed of a 1267 Committee member and representatives from other relevant international organizations, which included Interpol, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization. The CTED had useful discussions with Tanzanian stakeholders on how best to implement resolution 1373 (2001), including through enhanced reporting obligations for other Committees and exchange of information on international terrorism.

Tanzania is encouraged by the report on how the Committees intend to work with relevant international and regional organizations with a view to helping Member States in discharging their responsibilities under other resolutions, namely, resolutions 1455 (2003), 1540 (2004) and 1624 (2005).

We highly commend the CTC's comprehensive technical assistance implementation plan, the 1267 Committee's partnership in sanctions implementation and the decision by the 1540 Committee to publish on its website a legislative database. We believe that the efforts made by those Committees will improve the capacity of Member States in the implementation of resolutions 1267 (1999), 1540 (2004) and 1373 (2001).

Regarding the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions Committee, my delegation wishes to commend the Committee for courageously embarking on the process of addressing the thorny issue of listing and delisting through the revision of the Committee's guidelines.

Of equal importance and concern is the lack of adequate identifiers on the Consolidated List. There is a need to expedite the ongoing exercise of refining the list.

Tanzania is committed to implementing all relevant resolutions, with the help of the partners and friends of the United Nations. We fully recognize the exemplary work and professionalism displayed by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, which has developed a database for documents and information.

We were gratified by the useful interventions made by the Governments of Sweden, Germany and Switzerland during the 1267 Committee meeting with a view to improving the quality of the Committee's Consolidated List. The Committee benefited as a result of the combined efforts to make the targeted sanctions more effective.

We recognize the important coordination role played by the 1540 Committee in preventing the acquisition by non-State actors of weapons of mass destruction or related materials and their means of delivery. The Committee's coordination with the CTC and the 1267 Committee should be highly commended.

The Committee should be encouraged in its plan to use its expertise and, in collaboration with the CTC and the 1267 Committee, to act as a clearing house, contacting Member States in need of information and inviting States offering assistance and those needing it to take a proactive approach, on a bilateral basis or through international and regional organizations, in order to contribute to capacity-building. In this context, the Committee should strive to increase States' awareness of the availability of such bilateral and international assistance facilities, in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Mr. Al-Bader (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like at the outset to express my thanks to Ambassador Mayoral, Ambassador Løj and Ambassador Burian for their briefings on the activities of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004). Those Committees play an important role in our efforts to combat terrorism.

There is a need for cooperation between the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions Committee and Member States — hence the visit organized by the Committee to my country, during which the Chairman was able to hear Doha's views about the Committee's work and the need to continue to implement its activities, which are

of the utmost importance to Qatar. The Committee also examined the various legislative and legal measures that are in place in Qatar aimed at combating terrorism in a firm and realistic manner through the rule of law, the promotion of democracy and full respect for human rights, as well as domestic legislation to combat terrorism.

Sanctions remain an important tool for the Security Council, but we understand that there is a need to move from comprehensive sanctions to targeted sanctions. However, such sanctions must be imposed with a view to achieving a clear objective. They must be implemented objectively, effectively and in a balanced number. Some believe that the imposition of sanctions is a political tool of the Security Council. However, we must be clear in stating that the imposition of sanctions is also a legal tool; the Security Council must take into consideration both the legal aspect and human rights, which must not be violated.

More than 50 States have pointed out the need for the Committee to ensure legality and transparency when listing or delisting names. At the moment, many cases are being put forward by individuals on the Committee's list and by domestic courts alleging that the United Nations is violating human rights in listing names. In this regard, my delegation would like to stress once again the need for checks and balances when including the names of individuals and entities on the list. Our methods must be effective and accountable. Implementation must be monitored and sanctions must be transparent. The listing and delisting of individuals and entities must be fair and transparent. Sanctions must also be implemented in an accountable manner.

Radicalism must be combated in a number of ways, most importantly by creating societies that are free from and extremism and hatred of others. We should recall that resolution 1624 (2005) stresses the continuing need for international efforts to promote dialogue and wider horizons for cooperation between societies in order to prevent hatred of others. We also recall the international appeal for a dialogue among civilizations and for coexistence among peoples, as well as the need to prevent extremism. We call on the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) once again to take up that issue very firmly and to call on States not to distort religion.

The most important aspect of the fight against terrorism is the defence of human rights. States must ensure that any measures they take to combat terrorism conform with their obligations under international law in that regard. In the fight against terrorism, specific rights cannot be restricted under any circumstances or at any time. We believe that the United Nations should have a comprehensive strategy to ensure respect for human rights in the fight against terrorism.

My delegation shares the positive view of the progress being made in the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). We believe that the Committee must continue to consider the reports submitted by States. My delegation welcomes the fact that many States have submitted national reports. We call upon non-reporting States to do so now, and we call upon the Committee to provide the technical assistance requested by States to make further progress against the threat of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). The Committee must proceed cautiously in ensuring the non-proliferation of WMDs by State or non-State actors. At the same time, non-proliferation measures cannot be selective.

Finally, I call upon all three Committees to coordinate and cooperate closely with a view to achieving the greatest possible effectiveness in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Oshima (Japan): Allow me to express my deepest sympathy and condolences to the Government and the people of Indonesia as well as to the families of those who were killed or injured in the devastating earthquake which hit the southern coast of Java on 27 May.

I thank the respective Chairs of the three counter-terrorism-related Committees for their briefings this morning, in which they detailed progress being made and challenges ahead. We found the briefings to be very informative and useful. In expressing our thanks to the three ambassadors, Ellen Løj, César Mayoral and Peter Burian, let me also state that we welcome the resumed practice of ad hoc briefings by the Committees to inform Member States of their activities on a more frequent basis. We also highly appreciate the excellent and dedicated work of the members of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the experts on the Monitoring Team of the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions Committee, the experts on the 1540 Committee and the Secretariat.

Today's meeting offers an opportunity for Council members not only to be briefed on the progress made in the work of the three Committees, but also to hear the views of Member States on that work. This is important because, in the ongoing debate in the General Assembly on a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy, comments and opinions have been expressed by Member States about the manner in which the three Security Council Committees do their work. It is also relevant in the context of the currently debated mandates review and of the follow-up to the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1).

One of the areas in which rationalization will be required in the work of the Committees — and about which many States have voiced concerns — relates to the easing of the reporting burdens on some Member States. While emphasizing that reporting by Member States is of central importance for the effective work of the Committees, the three Chairs expressed their understanding of the need to take action on the problem of the burdens arising from reporting obligations.

Japan supports consideration by the Council of the possibility of consolidating reports to the greatest extent possible to ease that burden where necessary. For those non-reporting States that have the will but lack the capacity to prepare reports, it is necessary to consider the possible provision of assistance. We appreciate, in that regard, the efforts by Ambassador Løj and Ambassador Mayoral to hold dialogue with several regional groups, including the Pacific Islands Forum and members of the Caribbean Community. We also encourage the expert groups of the three Committees in their efforts to consolidate the questions addressed in a single questionnaire. We hope that such a questionnaire will be agreed and put into practice as swiftly as possible.

Another rationalization measure worth undertaking would be to consolidate Committee visits to Member States, although the manner in which such visits should be consolidated would obviously require careful consideration, and in some cases adjustment, given the fact that all of the Committees have related but distinct purposes derived from their respective mandates.

It seems to us that there is ample room for the coordination and consolidation of visits. We believe that, among the three Committees, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee in particular should be encouraged to coordinate the timing of their visits so that they can be conducted jointly, while respecting the requests of States to be visited. Such a step would also enhance the effectiveness of the dialogue with State authorities and improve the gathering and sharing of information. At the same time, we understand that there may be cases in which separate visits will be necessary. When individual visits are required, it is indispensable to share with the other Committees the outcome of those visits so that the findings are fully utilized. Such considerations aimed at rationalizing visits would not only help relieve the burden of the visited States, but also create the kind of enhanced cooperative relationship between the Committees and the visited States that we hope to see.

The CTED's responsibility to identify the specific assistance needs of States on the basis of information obtained through State reports and State visits continues to be one of its important duties. To that end, we expect that the development of closer cooperation between the Directorate and the Group of Eight's Counter-Terrorism Action Group (CTAG) will be achieved through such efforts as participation in local CTAG meetings, where relevant, during CTC and CTED visits abroad. Japan expects the CTED to play a clearinghouse role in matching identified needs for assistance with actual donor support.

In that regard, we note and appreciate the fact that the CTED has recently begun to engage in active dialogue with potential donors. We hope that such proactive efforts on the part of the CTED and the work of the CTC will begin to produce concrete results and that the needed assistance will begin to reach those States requiring it. The Japanese Government wishes to share its experience and information in that regard as both a donor and a CTC member. In that connection, my Government has established a new funding facility — grant aid for cooperation on counter-terrorism and security enhancement — providing approximately $70 million for the current fiscal year, beginning in April.

Other matters that have been raised are the listing and delisting of individuals and entities on the Consolidated List of the Al-Qaida/Taliban Sanctions Committee and the issue of due process, which is also of great interest and concern to many Member States. Unfortunately, a final conclusion has yet to be reached

in the Committee. It is essential that sanctions measures be fully implemented and that terrorist activities be effectively prevented. To that end, it is necessary to expeditiously find a solution to the issue of listing and delisting and to enhance confidence in the Consolidated List. It is therefore encouraging that serious discussion on this matter has resumed in the Committee. We expect that that will soon result in a fairer and more transparent procedure that takes into consideration the various proposals put forward by the Monitoring Team, Member States, think tanks and others.

Finally, we welcome the two-year extension of the 1540 Committee's mandate in a decision taken in April through resolution 1673 (2006). Under that resolution, the submission of additional information by Member States will continue to be required as one of the pillars of the implementation of the resolution, while enabling the Committee to assist Member States more proactively in fulfilling that goal. It is important to enhance the implementation of the resolution through multiple means, including through the provision of technical assistance, outreach activities and the holding of seminars. The Committee has just embarked upon a discussion regarding the work programme for the coming 12 months. We regard that work programme as highly important as a guideline for the activities of the Committee. We intend to contribute constructively to the discussion.

In conclusion, the three Committees must not only continue to pursue their respective practical activities; they must also achieve substantive results in the improvement of procedural matters, as has repeatedly been pointed out by Member States. Our intention is to continue to play an integral role in advancing the work and reform of the three Committees while giving full support to their respective Chairpersons and members.

Mr. Christian (Ghana): I wish to begin by thanking the Chairpersons of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), the 1267 Committee and the 1540 Committee — Ambassadors Ellen Margrethe Løj, César Mayoral and Peter Burian, respectively — for their comprehensive briefings.

We note with satisfaction that the Counter-Terrorism Committee has decided to focus its work for the first part of this year on the revision of the reporting regime, how it should enhance dialogue with Member States in need of technical assistance and deepen its relations with international, regional and subregional organizations.

In connection with the reporting regimes, we support the introduction by the Committee of the analytical tool, referred to as the preliminary implementation assessment, to monitor the extent of States' implementation of their obligations under resolution 1373 (2001). We wish to reiterate the call made by my delegation in February 2006 for the 1373 Committee, in consultation with the 1267 and 1540 Committees, to work on the consolidation of the three reporting regimes, as recommended in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document (General Assembly resolution 60/1).

With regard to technical assistance to States in need, we are appreciative of consultations being undertaken by the Committee with Member States and with potential donors, and hope that the ongoing dialogue will yield fruitful results. The emphasis of that consultation should be on a regional and subregional approach, which appears to be the most cost-effective method to channel assistance to as many countries as possible in a region or subregion.

My delegation wishes to stress that cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations should be an integral part of the Committee's work. In that regard, we hope that the fifth special meeting of the CTC with international, regional and subregional organizations, which is scheduled for later this year, will focus on how best to utilize regional institutions as a medium to facilitate and strengthen the capacities of States, particularly in developing regions, to meet their obligations under the regime established by resolution 1373 (2001).

With regard to the Al-Qaida/Taliban sanctions Committee, my delegation considers country visits by the Chairman and the Monitoring Team as one of the key pillars by which the implementation of the sanctions regime can be evaluated. It is through that interaction between the Al-Qaida/Taliban sanctions Committee and Member States that implementation can be monitored, and practical steps taken, to correct weaknesses in the sanctions regime.

We wish to raise the issue of recent court challenges to the listing decisions of the Committee in some countries. That raises a fundamental issue: Is a decision of the Security Council taken under Chapter

VII subject to judicial review in a Member State? It appears we have an essentially political process conflicting with the judicial norms of some member countries. That problem will persist until the issue of which system should have primacy is resolved, with the potential to undermine the credibility of the Committee.

We are particularly grateful to the Governments of Sweden, Switzerland and Germany for sponsoring a paper by the Watson Institute for International Studies that has made a thorough study of that delicate legal problem and come up with interesting proposals. My delegation supports the option of a review mechanism distinct from the 1267 Committee as an approach to pre-empting that problem.

The unanimous adoption of resolution 1673 (2006) in April 2006, renewing the 1540 Committee's mandate for another two years, is an unambiguous affirmation of the Council's determination to live up to its cardinal responsibility to maintain international peace and security. The coming two years will be a critical period for the 1540 Committee as it seeks to achieve universal reportage and to examine, monitor and assist in the implementation of operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of resolution 1540 (2004), as was lucidly affirmed in operative paragraph 5 of resolution 1673 (2006).

Due to the current position on the submission of first and additional reports by States, we find merit in the intensification and widening of outreach activities to sensitize, encourage and offer States the necessary guidance to implement the provisions of resolution 1540 (2004). My delegation's wholehearted support for that decision informed Ghana's favourable consideration of the request to host the outreach programme for Africa, which regrettably is the region with an appreciable number of countries that are yet to submit their first reports.

Another important element that needs to be strengthened is the Committee's role in the provision of resources and assistance in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), especially to most developing countries. The political will and commitment of those countries are undermined by the absence of the requisite national capacity, particularly with respect to the technical sphere. Although bilateral arrangements are generally welcomed, international cooperation is imperative, and the Committee has a critical role to play by acting as a clearing house on that issue.

Given the ever-evolving nature of terrorism, an intensification of cooperation among the three Committees and their experts would definitely enhance the international community's effort to address that scourge. By extension, cooperation between the three Committees and regional and subregional organizations, as well as international financial institutions and multilateral bodies, should be enhanced if we are to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable solution to that menace.

Mr. Zhang Yishan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation would like to thank Ambassador Mayoral, Løj and Burian for their briefings on the work of the 1267 Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the 1540 Committee, respectively. China would like to make the following comments, and express its hopes, with regard to those Committees.

The visit by the Chairperson of the 1267 Committee has enhanced understanding and cooperation between Member States and the Committee. In conjunction with the consideration of the fourth report of the Monitoring Team and through letters by its Chairman, the Committee has enhanced understanding and attention on the part of Member States as concerns the implementation of sanctions. It is our hope that, in the next phase of its work, the Committee will focus its priorities on an extensive, in-depth and practical exploration of the quality of the sanctions and its listing and delisting procedures, so as to reach a common understanding on ways to refine the list at an early date.

Along with improving the quality of the list, efforts should be made to ensure that the procedure is fair and transparent and to avoid double standards. Only in that way will we ensure that the Committee's work is respected and supported by the vast majority of Member States. And only in that way will it be generally conducive to the promotion of international cooperation against terrorism.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has increased its technical assistance and coordination, strengthened its dialogue with Member States and begun to discus ways and means of deepening its relationships with international, regional and subregional organizations. In the future, the CTC should accelerate its

implementation of resolution 1624 (2005), for there is not much time left before it must submit its report.

The relevant recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) have an important role to play in counter-terrorism financing. China supports the appropriate dissemination of those recommendations by CTC. At the same time, the representation of developing countries on the FATF should be increased. Only thus can it play a greater role in counter-terrorism.

China welcomes the seamless extension by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) of its mandate. We hope that the Committee will establish a comprehensive and balanced programme of work as soon as possible, in accordance with resolution 1673 (2006) and the recommendations contained in the Committee's report. In July 2006, with the joint support of the United Nations, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway and Australia, China will host a seminar in Beijing on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the Asia-Pacific region. We believe that the meeting will achieve results.

We also hope that the three committees will continue to strengthen coordination and cooperation on the current basis. As to the consolidation of country reports, China believes that the three committees have different responsibilities and focus on different areas of work, although those do overlap to a certain extent. At the same time, the Committees all place heavy reporting requirements on Member States, bringing considerable pressure to bear. China encourages the three committees and their respective experts to continue to coordinate among themselves and to adopt appropriate measures to streamline their work, reduce the reporting burden on Member States, and assist them in finding solutions to their difficulties and thereby more efficiently and effectively to implement the relevant resolutions.

Looking back over the past three months, we can see that terrorist activities have remained rampant and that the fight against terrorism remains a long and arduous task. As the common enemy of the international community of humankind, all terrorist activities constitute a serious threat to international peace and security, regardless of their motivation, timing and location and the identity of the perpetrators.

In the fight against terrorism, we should not exclusively focus on and combat those terrorist organizations and individuals that threaten ourselves, while being permissive and ambivalent towards those that do not pose a direct threat to us and our allies; much less should we fail to respond to the legitimate requirements of other countries or even raise obstacles on the basis of other motivations. If that should occur, it would be difficult to expect proactive coordination and cooperation on the part of other Member States.

The international community should unite in its efforts and demonstrate a tireless opposition to terrorism. It should regard the terrorist forces that threaten any country as an enemy of all and combat them with resolve, leaving terrorists with no place to hide. Only thus will the international fight against terrorism be complete and effective. China made that point during the General Assembly's discussion on formulating a global counter-terrorism strategy.

China has always supported and actively participated in the international counter-terrorism struggle. In April 2006, China deposited with Secretary-General Annan its instrument of ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, demonstrating yet again our support for international cooperation in counter-terrorism. In the future, China will continue constructively to participate in counter-terrorism cooperation and, as always, to support and actively take part in the work of the three committees to promote the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

Ms. Wolcott Sanders (United States of America): I would like to thank all three chairmen for their briefings. Terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are the pre-eminent threats to international peace and security, and the Council has a critical responsibility to counter those threats. Ambassadors Løj, Mayoral and Burian show dedicated leadership that helps to drive the international community's fight against terrorism and, in Chairman Burian's case, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, including the threat that terrorists and other non-State actors could access those items.

Today's presentations all refer to cooperation among the committees, which is essential and must be enhanced. The committees are the Council's public voice on terrorism, regularly interacting with States, other parts of the United Nations system, as well as

international and regional organizations. For the Council's counter-terrorism efforts to succeed, they must speak with one voice on terrorism and operate in a coherent and coordinated manner. To do so, the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) and the Monitoring Team of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) must conduct more joint visits to States. When the two expert bodies cannot do so, they should coordinate their visits to produce the broadest impact. The two committees should share information they gather on those visits and, as appropriate, coordinate follow-up. We also urge the committees and their experts to consult one another more on engagement with other international and regional organizations to be sure that those efforts reinforce one another. Finally, reporting requests also need careful thought and review to avoid reporting fatigue.

We remain concerned that States still have much to do to implement the obligations the Council has established. The Secretary-General's recently released recommendation for a counter-terrorism strategy has called on the Council bodies dealing with terrorism to develop standards of accountability and compliance against which individual States' efforts can be measured. The Council should take the steps necessary to ensure that its subsidiary bodies heed that call.

I would like to say a few brief words about each presentation.

The United States appreciates the leadership of Chairman Løj, particularly her push for the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) to achieve concrete results. We also are grateful for the hard work and expertise of the Committee's Executive Directorate, under Ambassador Rupérez's leadership.

We welcome the CTC's recent accomplishments. We applaud its efforts to streamline its reporting procedures and to keep the CTC and States focused on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). We also are pleased to hear that the CTC is preparing its fifth special meeting with international and regional organizations, as part of its work to strengthen coordination with those organizations and highlight issues that have yet to receive the attention they deserve, namely restricting terrorist travel and denying terrorist safe haven. To achieve the best results, all United Nations Members must be invited to participate as observers, as in previous meetings.

We also welcome CTED's outreach to potential donors on issues concerning technical assistance. The United States provides extensive technical assistance, including, for example, $1.5 million for the Pacific Islands Forum to enhance existing anti-money-laundering and counter-terrorism finance regimes in that region. We also welcome New Zealand's successful programme to help Pacific Islands Forum States prepare reports to the CTC, as well as to the committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1540 (2004).

Facilitating technical assistance must not become an end in itself for the CTC, however. The CTC must remain focused on its primary mandate — monitoring States' implementation of their obligations under resolution 1373 (2001). If States have received technical assistance but still have not met their obligations, the CTC must take action to ensure that they do so. We welcome the CTC's new preliminary implementation assessment tool, which presents a useful way to measure States' implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). We are glad that the CTC and its CTED are working to identify best practices or sets of best practices relevant to resolution 1373 (2001). Once they have done so, the CTC should endorse or adopt and disseminate those best practices, and use them to measure States' compliance with resolution 1373 (2001).

Looking ahead, we hope that the CTC's next work programme will cover a 180-day period. Doing so will help streamline its work, freeing up the CTC and CTED to focus on States' implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), and not on administrative matters.

The Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) has focused on many important issues since Ambassador Mayoral's last briefing and the United States commends his leadership. The Committee, with the invaluable help of its Monitoring Team, is working hard to strengthen the sanctions regime, address States' concerns, and ensure that the international community remains energized and united in fighting Al-Qaida and the Taliban.

Under his stewardship, the 1267 Committee turned its attention to the Afghan Government's requests to delist former Taliban members who have completed the reconciliation programme. The United States strongly supports Afghanistan's efforts to

reconcile former Taliban to the Afghan Government. We appreciate Ambassador Mayoral's decision to send the Monitoring Team to Kabul to strengthen the dialogue between the Committee and the Afghan Government and to gather the information necessary for the Committee to hold a constructive discussion on the delisting requests.

In a further move to bolster dialogue, he recently travelled to Qatar, Yemen and Saudi Arabia, as he mentioned. All three States are important allies in the fight against Al-Qaida. The United States was pleased to join his delegation. Meetings with Member States are often the most effective way to improve cooperation and resolve differences, and thus help to strengthen sanctions implementation.

Finally, Ambassador Mayoral is presiding over the Committee's important discussion about revising the listing and delisting guidelines. Reflecting our commitment to fairness and transparency in the Committee's work, the United States has submitted a comprehensive package of recommendations. We realize that the task is difficult, but we hope the Committee will focus on this important issue and will remain flexible in order to reach agreement.

With regard to the 1540 Committee and Ambassador Burian, we welcome the Council's recent adoption of resolution 1673 (2006). Resolution 1540 (2004) is a vital step in the international effort to address the threat to international peace and security posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery, including to terrorists and States that seek to use proliferation of those items to threaten the civilized world. As the 2006 United States National Security Strategy states, "There are few greater threats than a terrorist attack with WMD". Resolution 1540 (2004), if fully implemented, will ensure that no State or non-State actor is a source of WMD proliferation for terrorists.

The Committee has a crucial role in assessing States' implementation of the resolution and ensuring that States remain focused on fully implementing its requirements. As the Committee's April 2006 report to the Council (S/2006/257) illustrates, much remains to be done. The Committee must work with States to identify gaps they must close to comply fully with resolution 1540 (2004). The Committee should aim to establish concrete standards for measuring States' compliance with their obligations under resolution 1540 (2004), taking as an initial starting point the elements of its matrix.

We also agree that the Committee should continue to serve as a clearing house for information concerning technical assistance. The United States is working on its own plan to determine what assistance we can provide other States to fully implement resolution 1540 (2004). We encourage other Governments to reach out to those that need to build their capacity to comply with the resolution.

One vital mechanism to counter proliferation that the Committee has not addressed adequately is the need to choke off the supply of funds to proliferators. Whatever else motivates proliferation, there can be no doubt that it is money-driven. In that context, the Committee must pay more attention to the provisions of resolution 1540 (2004) that require States to take measures against proliferation financing.

Last June, the United States took steps to implement those obligations, when President Bush issued Executive Order 13382. That order, consistent with our obligations under resolution 1540 (2004), establishes a targeted financial sanctions program that blocks the assets of designated WMD proliferators and their support networks. The order also prohibits United States nationals and others within the jurisdiction of the United States from engaging in transactions with those to whom the United States has applied such sanctions. We stand ready to share our experiences and efforts with the Committee and with all interested States, and we look forward to engaging in the Committee's discussions on this issue.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We express our gratitude to the Chairs of the Committee on sanctions against Al-Qaida and the Taliban, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the 1540 Committee, Ambassadors Mayoral, Løj and Burian, respectively, for their substantive statements and for their efforts to enhance the international system to counter the global threat of terrorism.

The Russian Federation believes that it is necessary to continue the endeavour to expand the coordination of the activities and cooperation of the three Committees in the light of the goals set forth in the 2005 summit outcome document (General Assembly resolution 60/1). Above all, it is important to ensure an overall thrust aimed at developing the

effective dialogue being pursued by the Committees with States, in line with implementation of their mandates. On the one hand, more effective monitoring of the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions is important. On the other hand, everything needs to be done to ensure that States can, in a timely manner, find and make use of the necessary resources to build their counter-terrorism capacities.

Today's briefings have yet again confirmed how important it is to build upon achieved results from the standpoint of interaction among the Committees, exchange of information, joint participation of experts in country visits and the design of reporting mechanisms that are more acceptable to States.

With respect to the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Russian Federation supports the work programme presented by Ambassador Løj and the priorities it lays out. We note the considerable contribution of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to the work of the Committee to implement resolution 1373 (2001). We welcome the Committee's efforts to further enhance the reporting regime. We also welcome the adoption of the CTC's new arrangement for the preliminary assessment of States' implementation of the provisions of the resolution. This significantly assists the Committee in focusing on targeted work with States, in assessing more objectively and in depth their progress in meeting the requirement to build their counter-terrorism capacity and in determining potential areas where technical assistance might be needed.

We welcome the continued development of the CTC's practice of country visits, including the use of varying formats for field missions, the expansion of their thematic scope and the practical thrust of the experts' recommendations. In this regard, it is our hope that the Committee will devote the necessary attention to developing ways to work with States on the outcome of visits, including mechanisms for direct liaison between States and potential donors. For our part, as the country presiding over the Group of Eight (G-8), we actively support the effort to strengthen the interaction of the CTC with the G-8's Counter-Terrorism Action Group.

We welcome steps to continue to develop the Committee's cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations, including the outcome of the April seminar in Auckland. Here, while we must devote attention to developing cooperation with individual regional organizations, it is important not to overlook the overall global context for the CTC's interaction with such organizations or the possibility of using their experience and capacities in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). From that standpoint, we welcome the practical preparations undertaken by the CTC for the fifth special meeting with international, regional and subregional organizations.

We continue to view the 1267 Committee and its Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team as one of the effective and capable Security Council counter-terrorism mechanisms. It is necessary to continue work to strengthen the anti-Taliban sanctions regime by enhancing the guidelines for the work of the 1267 Committee. We take note of the recent initiatives of a number of States on this matter. We look forward to an interactive and fruitful discussion of this issue in the 1267 Committee and are prepared to take part in it. Here, we would particularly like to underscore our certainty that, to enhance the effectiveness of this sanctions regime, it is most important to enhance national procedures for taking decisions on placing new names on the sanctions list. The commitment of Member States to full and conscientious implementation of their obligations is key to the success of our common efforts to counter the true, changing threat to international peace and security posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities.

We attach great importance to the effective work of the 1540 Committee aimed at preventing weapons of mass destruction from entering black market networks and, above all, from being acquired by terrorists.

The Russian Federation was one of the initiators of the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004) and of April's extension of the Committee's mandate for another two years. In timely fashion, we have presented our national report and additional information to the Committee. Ensuring the full implementation of the provisions of resolution 1540 (2004) by all States continues to be our priority, and we are actively pursuing that goal, both in the 1540 Committee and in the context of our presidency of the G-8.

We support the proposals made in Ambassador Burian's statement to reinvigorate the activities of the

Committee, including by providing the necessary assistance to needy States, holding regional seminars, cooperation with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and more active use of the capacities of field missions of the CTC and the 1267 Committee to explain the importance of the timely submission of reports. It is our view that the collection and analysis of national reports do not exhaust the entire range of goals laid out in resolution 1673 (2006). A major painstaking effort has still to take place to develop and strengthen monitoring systems for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, an effort in which the Russian Federation will continue to be involved most actively.

Mr. De La Sablière (France) (*spoke in French*): I too would like to thank the Chairpersons of the three Committees for their reports. The usefulness of these public debates, in which we hear briefings, as well as comments from Council members and non-members, goes without saying.

I fully endorse the statement to be made by the presidency of the European Union, but I also would like to refer to a few particular aspects of our Committees' work.

France welcomes the two-year extension of the mandate of the 1540 Committee. In the coming weeks, the Committee is to draft a programme of work, covering all aspects of resolution 1540 (2004), without favouring or neglecting any. France will make proposals to the Committee in this exercise, which we feel is important for two reasons. First, resolution 1540 (2004) is the only multilateral tool for comprehensively dealing with the proliferation of the triple threat of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related material. No aspect should be left out. Secondly, the Security Council has decided to extend the Committee's mandate, and in the coming two years the Committee must report to the Council on the implementation of the resolution by States. It now must equip itself with the tools required to meet that ambitious objective.

At the same time, greater attention must be given by the Committee to the question of assistance. Achieving full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the next two years will require that greater assistance be given to States for whom this undertaking is most difficult.

The Chairman of the Al-Qaida/Taliban Sanctions Committee reported to us on the very useful recent visits to Qatar, Yemen and Saudi Arabia. This reconfirms the interest of this Committee and of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in visits to the field, as long as they are well-prepared, well-coordinated and thorough.

France welcomes the fact that the Committee has decided to resume review of its delisting procedures, as well as procedures with regard to humanitarian exemptions. Today, individual sanctions have become an essential international instrument in combating terrorism, as well as support for various peace processes. The Security Council has broken new ground by creating this new tool; but, like any new instrument, it must be improved upon.

We believe it has become urgent to set up a mechanism that, firstly, will make procedures for individuals and States simpler and more readable. Secondly, it must ensure that all delisting and exemption requests are received by the Committee and dealt with accordingly. To this end, France proposes that a focal point be set up within the Secretariat for the direct receipt of listed individuals requesting delisting or exemption. This focal point will then ensure that the request is passed on to the Committee and will inform the individuals concerned as to the response to their request. Setting up a single focal point for the various sanctions committees will make the procedures more accessible, clearer and more standardized and will ensure that all requests are considered. We truly hope that there will be broad support for our proposal and that it can be implemented in the near future.

In the list of activities presented to us by the Chairperson of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, I would like to refer in particular to the adoption of guidelines for the respect of human rights. The obligation placed upon States to respect international law, in particular human rights and humanitarian international law, must, in point of fact, be duly taken into account by the Committee and its Executive Directorate.

I am also particularly interested in the progress achieved in the area of cooperation with regional organizations, including their assistance in drafting reports.

Finally, I note the will expressed to consider new ways of responding to problems faced by States that do not fully implement resolution 1373 (2001). That desire echoes one of the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his report that we be unified against terrorism. He has suggested that we define parameters to draw a distinction between States that do not have all the means necessary for implementing their obligations from those that have the means but lack the necessary will. The Council must be firm with the latter.

In expressing these thoughts, we are responding to one of the tasks assigned to us by the summit in September — namely, that of strengthening the follow-up and monitoring capacity of the three Committees.

In conclusion, I would like to refer to the French Government's "white book" on domestic security against terrorism, which I would be happy to present to the Counter-Terrorism Committee. It underscores the essential role played by the United Nations in combating terrorism, because the United Nations alone can provide the universal framework for mobilizing, on the political front, all States and for setting legally binding norms.

Mr. De Rivero (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation wishes to thank Ambassador Ellen Margrethe Løj, Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), Ambassador César Mayoral, Chairman of the 1267 Committee, and Ambassador Peter Burian, Chairman of the 1540 Committee, for their briefings. We would like to commend them for the work they are carrying out at the head of these subsidiary bodies of the Security Council.

Peru has zero tolerance for terrorism. We strongly and unequivocally condemn terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomever terrorism is committed. No ideological, political or religious reason justifies those who commit, contribute to, finance or make apologies for terrorism. My country therefore supports the strengthening of the Security Council's counter-terrorism efforts.

With regard to the work of the 1267 Committee, I would like to reiterate the importance that my delegation attaches to improving the quality of the Consolidated List. The recent approval of a procedure to respond to requests for the delisting of deceased individuals is a step forward. However, there are other important issues that need to be addressed.

For example, it is essential that we have as much information as possible regarding the identification of individuals and justifying listing requests for those individuals. All requests should comply with the standards set by Interpol for inclusion in its database. Difficulties in identifying individuals and entities on the Consolidated List pose a challenge to the implementation of sanctions, in particular with regard to respect for human rights and to the efficiency and credibility of the Committee itself.

In that context, my delegation believes that the review of the procedures for inclusion on the Consolidated List and for delisting is relevant here. The Committee will be considering that issue shortly; it is of great importance for my delegation, and we commend Ambassador César Mayoral for his work in that regard. We acknowledge the expectations both inside and outside the United Nations with regard to the review process, and we believe that the Committee should take this opportunity to address the existing limitations of the current system, bearing in mind once again that any effort to combat terrorism must be based on full respect for human rights, including due process. Of course, we will cooperate fully with Ambassador Mayoral in the complex process that he will be heading.

When States face difficulties in implementing sanctions and request assistance, the Committee should be in a position to respond to those requests in a timely and appropriate manner. In particular, if the Committee is consulted by a State, it should be in a position to determine the identity of an individual, either using the information it has on file or, if that should prove insufficient, by asking for additional information from the State requesting inclusion.

With regard to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), my delegation continues to look forward to the transition from the reporting regime to the preliminary implementation assessment regime. As mentioned by Ambassador Løj today, that new tool is still being tested by the Committee.

The proper application of that new tool should enable the Committee to gain a deeper and more complete knowledge of the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), thereby establishing a solid foundation for the better understanding of national situations, improved dialogue between the Committee

and Member States and, on a case-by-case basis, the best approach to follow.

With regard to strengthening the Committee's working relations with international, regional and subregional organizations, we believe that due attention should be accorded to the mandate of each of those organizations and to the work that they are already carrying out in the area of counter-terrorism, bearing in mind that efforts must not be duplicated. As for the facilitation of technical assistance and other activities of the Committee, such as visits, the cooperation should be broad, and no actor should be especially favoured, because a single technical assistance model may not necessarily be the best fit in all cases.

Respect for human rights is central in the fight against terrorism. The Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate must continue to convey that crucial message. The Committee's recent approval of policy guidelines for the Directorate on human rights was an important step in the right direction.

My delegation also believes that it is important to keep all Members of the Organization constantly informed about the work of the Committee. In that regard, we welcome the recent informal meeting between the Chairperson and Member States, as well as her intention to organize such meetings on a regular basis. We invite Member States to participate in those meetings and to take advantage of the opportunity they provide to discuss matters with the Chairperson and the Executive Directorate.

We would also like to mention the participation of Ambassador Løj in the Pacific Islands Forum meeting. Her participation proved very useful, not only in disseminating information about the work of the Committee, but also in learning about the progress achieved in that region and the possibilities for regional cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts there.

Peru underscores the importance of the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). Terrorist non-State actors must be prevented from acquiring weapons of mass destruction — that is a real concern. Peru favours the promotion of measures to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as support for disarmament measures.

My delegation is therefore participating with interest in the negotiations under way to adopt the Committee's programme of work for the next 12 months. We believe that it should continue the pattern followed to date, that is, it should compile and disseminate information, promote dialogue, provide assistance and facilitate cooperation. As stated in resolution 1673 (2005), it should also continue to consider aspects covered in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of resolution 1540 (2004).

In my delegation's view, the dissemination activities carried out by the Committee and the way in which States implement the relevant resolutions of the Council are of great importance. That is why, as Ambassador Burian recalled, Peru will host a regional seminar this November on the follow-up to and the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

With regard to the exchange of information, we wish to note the establishment of a database on national measures. The database will help States continue to improve their legislation aimed at strengthening monitoring measures.

In his briefing, Ambassador Burian also referred to State reports. Appropriate consideration of such reports will undoubtedly enable the Committee to identify areas in which States need technical assistance. The Committee should assist States in preparing their reports and, if necessary, in considering legislative reforms needed for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in the context of respect for the rights and obligations of States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.

I wish to reaffirm the importance of improved cooperation and coordination among the three Committees and their expert groups.

The President (*spoke in French*): I shall now make a brief statement in my capacity as representative of the Republic of the Congo.

I too thank the Chairs of the three counter-terrorism committees — Ambassador César Mayoral, Chair of the 1267 Committee, Ambassador Ellen Margrethe Løj, Chair of the 1373 Committee, and Ambassador Peter Burian, Chair of the 1540 Committee — who have all given us clear and informative briefings. My thanks go also to the three

expert groups that assist the ambassadors in their difficult tasks.

The three briefings show that each of the three Committees has reached a significant level of work in its area of activity. In particular, they show that the Security Council is maintaining a constant and legitimate vigilance with respect to an equally constant threat.

This meeting is being held a few days after the worldwide commemoration of Anti-Terrorism Day, which is observed every 21 May in memory of all the innocent victims of this scourge throughout the world. The commemoration of that day shows — as if it were necessary — that the threat of terrorism must always be taken very seriously and that any solution to that threat must be transnational.

That is why my delegation notes with interest the ongoing efforts of our Committees to encourage Member States to effectively implement the various counter-terrorism resolutions. It is true that that effort is long-term and has not yet had all the results we had expected, but any progress in this regard — modest though it might be — must be taken fully into account. We take this opportunity to reiterate our appeal for even more sustained assistance to States that are late in submitting their reports and in acceding to or ratifying the international counter-terrorism instruments.

In that regard, my delegation welcomes the strengthening of the dialogue with Member States, as recommended by the Chair of the 1267 Committee, through field visits and meetings with regional or subregional organizations to create active partnerships in the area of sanctions implementation, with, of course, all the necessary precautions involving the issue of list revision and taking into account provisions concerning the legal and humanitarian aspects.

We are also pleased to learn that the Counter-Terrorism Committee will hold, at a place to be determined, its fifth special meeting on a very important subject: preventing terrorism and ensuring effective border security. We are certain that that awareness-raising effort will greatly help to improve the performance of all parties interested in the task of counter-terrorism.

However, with regard to the 1267 Committee, my delegation continues to stress the need to update lists, taking into account all matters of interest to Member States and others, and, as we have said, to ensure that human rights and legal protections prevail. The 1267 Committee must be able to provide Member States with the information to which they are entitled concerning persons whose names are listed and anything relevant to their listing or delisting. In that context, we fully support the Chair of the 1540 Committee in his objective of strengthening cooperation with regional and subregional organizations with a view to the implementation of that important resolution.

The work programmes of the three Committees highlight the need to better coordinate the activities of their expert groups in order to create genuine synergies in their efforts vis-à-vis Member States; hence the need to identify best practices through the expert groups and to make those practices available to States that need them most.

In that regard, the websites of the three Committees, whose services have been improved, are an effective means for communication and the exchange of information.

Resolution 1673 (2006), of 27 April 2006, renews the mandate of the 1540 Committee and opens up new perspectives for it that require further support from all Council members. That is why my delegation hopes that the donor conference soon to be held in Geneva — on 5 and 6 June 2006 — on the implementation of that resolution will have all the support expected.

Finally, we reaffirm our support for the Chairs of the three Committees and wish them every success in their missions to ensure the success of our common fight against the scourge of terrorism.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Austria.

Mr. Pfanzelter (Austria): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and the countries aligning themselves with this statement.

First of all, I would like to thank the Chairpersons of the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) for their comprehensive and informative briefings. The European Union welcomes today's joint briefing as an important contribution to

strengthen the acceptance, legitimacy and transparency of the Security Council's efforts in the field of counter-terrorism and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Terrorism is a threat to all States and to all peoples. Terrorism knows no borders. It is a global threat that requires a global and comprehensive response. In the global fight against terrorism, the United Nations has a unique role to play. The 13 universal United Nations conventions and protocols against terrorism, together with Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004) and 1624 (2005) and other relevant resolutions, provide the legal framework for multilateral action against terrorism. The European Union continues to be committed to reaching agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, in order to achieve the objectives agreed at the 2005 world summit.

It is also imperative that the United Nations and its Member States continue to show their unity and resolve in their fight against terrorism by adopting and implementing without delay a global counter-terrorism strategy based on the elements and recommendations contained in the recent report of the Secretary-General. The strategy should be operational and action-oriented. It should focus on capacity-building, coordination and cooperation and should involve all relevant actors, namely, Member States, the United Nations, all 23 bodies and organizations in the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, civil society and the public at large. As highlighted in the Secretary-General's report, we believe that the Security Council and its committees have a key role to play in the global fight against terrorism.

Turning to the work of the three Committees, the European Union reaffirms the importance of respect for international law — in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law, including due process and the rule of law — in the fight against terrorism, which is a prerequisite for making that fight both legitimate and effective.

We reiterate the 2005 world summit's call on the Security Council to ensure fair and clear procedures for placing individuals and entities on sanctions lists and for removing them, as well as for granting humanitarian exemptions.

The European Union calls upon the 1267 Committee to continue its efforts to further improve the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime, especially the consolidated list and the Committee's guidelines. We expect that the Committee will expeditiously take up its work on the guidelines dealing with listing and delisting procedures, as mandated by Security Council resolution 1617 (2005), while taking into account the important recommendations in the fourth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team. In that regard, we note the contributions of some Member States to that important issue, including an academic study on strengthening targeted sanctions through clear and fair procedures that was sponsored by Germany, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as initiatives by Council Members such as Denmark and France. We also note the recent publication of a legal opinion commissioned by the Office of Legal Affairs on the website of the United Nations.

In our view, effective listing and delisting procedures are essential to preserve the legitimacy and reinforce the efficacy of the United Nations sanctions regime. A number of cases are currently pending before various courts, including the European Court of Justice, that challenge the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime as violating the rights of listed individuals to a fair trial and to an effective remedy. We believe that the Security Council should devote special attention to that matter, as a negative court ruling would not only put the Member States concerned in a difficult position but might also call the whole system of targeted United Nations sanctions into question.

We would also like to draw attention to the efforts of the democratically elected Government of Afghanistan to foster the process of national reconciliation, which have led it to put forward requests to the 1267 Committee to delist certain individuals who hold governmental functions, among others in key positions at the provincial level. We call upon the Committee to quickly decide upon those requests in order to support the process of national reconciliation as well as the rebuilding and stabilization efforts of the international community.

The European Union fully supports the latest work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for the period of April to June 2006. We welcome the goal of the CTC to achieve concrete results with regard to the revision of the reporting regime, the

enhancement of dialogue with Member States and the deepening of relations with international, regional and subregional organizations. We note with appreciation that the Committee intends to shift its focus from reporting to implementation and to start reflecting on additional means to address the cases of States that do not meet the requirements of resolution 1373 (2001), based on the analysis of country reports provided by the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED). The European Union supports the steps of the CTC to encourage States to report on their implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) and reiterates its call upon the CTC to further intensify its efforts to mainstream human rights throughout all of its work.

The European Union welcomes the efforts of the CTC and the CTED to improve the coordination, coherence and efficiency of the delivery of technical assistance in the field of counter-terrorism. We commend the efforts of the CTED to enter into dialogue with States, and encourage the continuation of joint visits, including efficient follow-up, together with other entities of the United Nations system and regional organizations. In that context, the European Union reiterates its readiness to continue its cooperation and participation in CTED visits. We are also pleased to note the exemplary cooperation between the CTED, as key facilitator of technical assistance, and the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as a key provider of technical assistance to requesting countries for the ratification and implementation of the 13 universal United Nations conventions and protocols against terrorism. Finally, we call upon the CTED to work closely with all technical assistance providers and to share information that might be helpful to them in their assistance programmes.

The European Union remains deeply concerned about the danger of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including their means of delivery, and of their acquisition by non-State actors, in particular terrorists. The European Union highly welcomes the recent adoption of resolution 1673 (2006), which extended the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a further period of two years, until April 2008. We commend the Committee and its group of experts for their comprehensive final report and recommendations on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), which shall constitute a basis for the adoption of a comprehensive programme of work addressing the resolution in all its aspects. We recognize that the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is a long-term task that will require continuous efforts at the national, regional and international levels. In that regard, we note with concern that, as of today, 57 States have not yet submitted their first reports. We urge all States which have not yet done so to submit their reports to the Committee and reiterate our readiness to consider any request for assistance or advice to such States as might be required.

The European Union welcomes the Committee's intention to keep the facilitation of further reporting and the promotion of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) through outreach activities among the top priorities of its future work. In that regard, we would like to inform the Council that the European Union will adopt a joint action to provide support to three regional seminars in China, Ghana and Peru, which will be organized by the 1540 Committee in the second half of this year. We also commend the Committee for the recent publication on its official website of a legislative database containing relevant information about national laws, regulations and other measures related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), which will be an important tool for Member States when enacting national implementation laws and measures.

Let me conclude by stressing the need for the United Nations and its Member States to stand united in a concerted effort to combat the global terrorist menace we face today. The European Union stands ready to play its part.

The President (*spoke in French*): I call on the representative of Switzerland.

Mr. Maurer (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of Germany, Sweden and Switzerland, I would like to thank you, Sir, for organizing this meeting and for the opportunity to address the Security Council.

I also thank the three chairmen of the committees for their informative and timely briefings.

Today, I would like to focus on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), which is currently reviewing the listing and delisting process with regard to sanctions. I would like to share some new thoughts and proposals on how to enhance the effectiveness of targeted sanctions. Although my

statement will focus on the 1267 Committee, those reflections are also relevant to other Security Council sanctions committees.

On an earlier occasion, I informed the Council of an initiative launched by Germany, Sweden and Switzerland in the field of targeted sanctions and human rights. That initiative is a continuation of the Interlaken, Bonn-Berlin and Stockholm processes and aims at strengthening the implementation of targeted sanctions by addressing concerns of due process.

As members know, our three Governments have commissioned the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University to draft a report on the subject. We would like to share the report's content with the Security Council and Member States with a view to contributing concrete ideas for strengthening the instrument of targeted sanctions. To that end, we have asked for the report to be circulated as an official United Nations document within the next few weeks. The written text of my statement that has been distributed contains a summary of the report and a brief overview of its recommendations.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the following main findings and recommendations.

First, the report describes the legal challenges against sanctions measures that have been brought before various courts in Europe and elsewhere. In the past, those courts have shown that they were well aware of the primacy of the United Nations Charter and the special responsibility of the Security Council. Nevertheless, some courts have also expressed their willingness to ensure that Security Council decisions comply with the compulsory norms of international law relating to the protection of human rights — the *jus cogens* — from which neither the Member States nor the United Nations may derogate.

Secondly, the report summarizes the improvements made over time by the sanctions committees, particularly by the 1267 Committee, but concludes that shortcomings remain with regard to listing, delisting, notification of individuals and entities, and especially the right to an effective remedy.

Thirdly, it describes the lack of periodic review of those listed, the limited time to resolve delisting requests and the open-ended nature of the present sanctions regimes.

Finally, it concludes that the aforementioned issues may infringe upon basic principles of human rights protection.

We believe that the best way forward is reform on a step-by-step basis. The Security Council and its committees could start with the most urgent issues and where progress can be achieved rapidly or at least within a reasonable time. In our view, that includes the following elements.

First, the listing criteria must be further refined. In recent years, the scope of targeted sanctions has been extended considerably to include broad categories of individuals and entities. Much has already been done to make the listings as clear and as unambiguous as possible. We welcome in particular the fact that Security Council resolution 1617 (2005) has given a more precise definition of the term "associated with Al-Qaida or the Taliban". However, we believe that the criteria for identifying the individuals or entities targeted by sanctions could be further developed and refined.

Second, standards for statements of case must be developed. The report's suggestion seems to be very much in line with the Monitoring Team's proposal to introduce a standard cover sheet.

Third, ways to notify targeted persons and entities should be found. The report argues that the United Nations has a responsibility to notify the targets of sanctions, and it presents several ideas on how to do so.

Fourth, a periodic review of listings, at least every two years, should be introduced. Excessively long intervals between reviews tend to change the preventive character of sanctions into permanent punishment, which could be very difficult for national or international courts to accept in the long run.

Fifth, an administrative focal point should be designated within the Secretariat to deal with all delisting and exemption requests, as well as to notify targets of listing. That proposal was put forward some time ago by a member of the Security Council. It has our full support.

Sixth, much could also be gained from identifying a set of common standards and best practices applicable to the different sanctions committees.

Seventh, a review mechanism should be developed to enable individuals and entities to ask for a review of their listing. That step is likely to pose the biggest challenge. However, we believe that this is the most important issue to address, because the lack of such a review mechanism raises questions of due process and it is the deficiency that is most often brought up in courts. The Watson Institute's report lists several options to be considered, ranging from a simple reviewing mandate assigned to the Monitoring Team to a full-fledged appeal system by independent courts or tribunals.

Germany, Sweden and Switzerland wish to pursue the dialogue on this important matter with the Security Council and its subsidiary organs. We are committed to strengthening the Security Council's instruments to fight terrorism in conformity with the very principles on which this Organization is founded.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

Mrs. Núñez Mordoche (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): First, Sir, I would like to commend you for your work as President of the Security Council during the month of May. I would also thank the Chairmen of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) for the information provided.

For more than 45 years, the Cuban people has been the target of countless terrorist actions, most of them masterminded and organized from United States territory, with the support, protection and funding of the successive Governments of that country. As a result of those acts, the Cuban people has paid a high cost in human lives. A total of 3,478 people have died, while 2,099 have been severely injured. The economic losses for Cuba have also been very high. With full impunity, funds to carry out terrorist actions are provided and collected in Miami and other cities of that country. The bank accounts that finance terrorism are openly and regularly operated, terrorists are recruited, weapons purchased and the territory is used by those who finance, mastermind and commit terrorist acts against Cuba. Instead of preventing and punishing terrorism against Cuba, the United States authorities hold hostage in that country's jails Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero and René González. This follows the unanimous decision of the Court of Appeals of the Eleventh Circuit of Atlanta to reverse their sentences and order a new trial, overturning the trial held by a crooked Miami-based court, without the guaranties of due process. Those five Cuban youths were only trying, with great altruism and courage, to obtain information about terrorist groups based in Miami in order to prevent their violent actions and to save lives of Cuban and United States citizens.

New evidence has been revealed about United States double standards in its so-called fight and international campaign against terrorism, as well as acts of this nature against the Cuban people.

The United States continues to fail to meet international obligations of judging and extraditing the infamous international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, whose extradition has been requested by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

This terrorist's impunity is perpetuated by judging him as a mere illegal immigrant, despite the fact that the United States Government itself has acknowledged that he is a dangerous terrorist. That fact was acknowledged in a letter sent to him in March by the United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The letter stated, inter alia, that due to his long record of criminal activities and acts of violence, which caused the death of innocent civilians, releasing him would mean a risk for the community and the national security of the United States.

After 13 months of silence with regard to the Cuban Government's inquiries, Federal Bureau of Investigation documents were disclosed on 22 April which proved the complicity of the United States authorities with the illegal entry of Posada Carriles in the territory of the United States on board the boat *Santrina*, property of the notorious terrorist Santiago Álvarez Fernández Magriña. For several months, the United States Government denied knowledge of Posada Carriles' entry into its territory, in spite of the fact that it is now clear that the United States was aware of this from the beginning, since an undercover FBI agent travelled on board the *Santrina*.

If the Government was aware of this, why was Posada Carriles not arrested until several months later? Why were charges not presented immediately against the other terrorists that helped Mr. Posada Carriles enter illegally into that country, such as Santiago Álvarez and Osvaldo Mitat, who are currently in jail

for arms smuggling and very serious violations of United States security laws?

Another example which proves the legitimacy of Cuba's denunciations was the reported arrest in Los Angeles, California, on 19 April, of Cuban-born citizen Robert Ferro. He had in his house an outrageous total of 1,571 fire arms, including anti-missile weapons and hand grenades, which were hidden in secret caches and rooms. After his arrest, Ferro declared he was a member of the anti-Cuban terrorist organization Alpha 66 and that he had a group of 100 members in California and Miami ready and trained to carry out actions against the Cuban Government. Ferro also said to the press that some of the weapons had secretly been provided by the United States Government with the aim of overthrowing Fidel Castro.

It is public knowledge that Robert Ferro, owner of the arsenal, worked for the Central Intelligence Agency and was an officer in the United States army's Special Forces.

Cuba has informed the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), established under resolution 1373 (2001), in detail concerning the terrorist actions of these and other individuals and organizations, as well as about the protection afforded to accomplices by the Government of the United States. To date, we have no indication that the CTC has taken any action to evaluate the information submitted or to undertake an investigation on the breach of the obligations of the United States pursuant to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

The Cuban Government reiterates its request to the Committee to carry out an evaluation of the information presented, inter alia, in documents S/2002/15, S/2004/753 and S/2005/341, thus contributing to putting an end to the impunity that those who have carried out terrorist actions against Cuba enjoy in United States territory.

It is impossible to eradicate terrorism if only some terrorist actions are condemned while others are hushed up, tolerated or justified, or if the issue is simply manipulated in order to promote certain political interests. In order to make progress, all hegemonic intentions and acts of aggression must be condemned and eliminated. In all honesty, all forms and manifestations of terrorism must be condemned and punished anywhere in the world. State terrorism must be no exception under any circumstances.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Liechtenstein.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): I would like to thank the Chairpersons of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), the 1267 Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) for their briefings this morning. I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate our commitment to international cooperation in the fight against terrorism and to join all States in the unequivocal condemnation of all terrorist acts, irrespective of their motivation, wherever and by whomever committed.

We are very pleased to see that the CTC and its Executive Directorate (CTED) are making further progress in refining their approaches to monitoring the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). We agree that the CTC should take a more tailor-made approach in monitoring implementation, and encourage the Committee to deepen its dialogue with Member States beyond mere reporting. Liechtenstein has just submitted our fifth report to the CTC and stands ready to continue its cooperation with it. We are also grateful for the continuation of the practice of informal briefings for Member States on the work of the Committee.

Once again, we would like to focus our comments today on the mandate given by the 2005 world summit to ensure that fair and clear procedures exist for placing individuals and entities on sanctions lists and for removing them, as well as for granting humanitarian exemptions. The 1267 Committee has been dealing with this issue for quite some time now. In the meantime, several studies have been produced on this question which underline the need for urgent action by the Security Council.

Like previous speakers, we commend, in particular, the study produced by the Watson Institute for International Studies. The Monitoring Team of the 1267 Committee has also made valuable recommendations. We call on the Council to give serious consideration to the many proposals made to improve the listing and de-listing procedures. There is no doubt that United Nations organs, when imposing measures that have a direct and dramatic impact on the rights of individuals, must respect international standards of human rights in a similar manner as States would have to.

The work undertaken by the United Nations over the last six decades to ensure that Governments respect human rights would suffer a great setback were we to allow the Organization to treat individuals in a manner which it would qualify as impermissible by States. We welcome Security Council action against terrorism, which is based on a modern interpretation of what the Charter means by the maintenance of international peace and security. It must, however, go hand in hand with an equally modern interpretation of international human rights law.

Future listing and de-listing procedures must, therefore, as an absolute minimum, grant targeted individuals and entities the right to be informed about the measures imposed and the reasons for their imposition, as well as the right to present information that might refute the case for listing. Furthermore, we urge the Council to consider procedures that could be considered an effective remedy or those that would at least entail a similar effect. Any such improvements would be highly beneficial for both the accuracy and legitimacy of the sanctions regime and, therefore, for its effectiveness. Finally, it must be stressed that any such improvements must also extend, as far as appropriate, to the so-called humanitarian exemptions.

Liechtenstein welcomes the extension of the 1540 Committee, as mandated by resolution 1673 (2006). We have submitted our first report in a timely manner and also provided the Committee with updated information. In fact, the 1540 Committee and its experts have been highly effective in their dialogue with Member States and have established good practices that can be beneficial for other Committees as well. In this context, we would like to express our support for measures aimed at consolidating the work of various subcommittees dealing with counter-terrorism. Such measures should make the United Nations response to terrorism more coherent and more effective and should focus on building State capacity. This chain against terrorism, which we have been building over the last years, will only be as strong as its weakest link.

The President (*spoke in French*): The next speaker is the representative of Israel, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Gillerman (Israel): Allow me, at the outset, to thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership of the Council during the month of May and for convening this important meeting. We also wish to thank the Chairpersons of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Al-Qaida Committee and the 1540 Committee for their concise reports and invaluable contribution in steering their Committees in this vital task.

Three months ago, in a similar briefing before the Council, I warned that terrorism is sowing the seeds of the first world war of the twenty-first century. Today we must sadly and emphatically state that terrorism is indeed the third world war. This is "World War Three".

No country is immune from international terrorism. It lurks in dark corners and strikes the blow of destruction, death, indiscrimination and chaos. Terrorists have executed horrific attacks in Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Morocco, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Terror has struck in Jordan, Kenya, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and Yemen. Terror has devastated Algeria, Argentina, Colombia, Great Britain, the Philippines, Spain and the United States. It continues to strike brutally, ruthlessly and daily in Israel. There are many, many more States targeted. And yet, foreigners targeted in terrorist attacks represent an even wider circle of victims. The victims were Australians. They were Dutch. They were from each and every corner of the globe. They were just unlucky enough to be at the wrong place at the wrong time. We are linked, and we are all in this together.

As this is a world war, the allies should fight this axis of terror, just as 60 years ago the Allies fought the Axis. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, never before in the field of human conflict have so few inflicted so much pain, horror, and destruction on so many. And yet, never before have so many had the ability to defeat the few if they only would mobilize their resources to do so. If we do not stand together, we will fall together. The world is no longer divided merely between rich and poor or North and South. It is divided between those who join in this fight and those who do not. It is divided between those who spread evil and those who do good; between those who incite violence and those who preach tolerance. Those who stand idly and do not fight this plague are in effect joining in collaboration with it. Unfortunately, even in this Council we sometimes find members that, despite being victims of terror themselves, do not always show the courage and determination even to condemn it strongly and unequivocally.

I called the Council to arms and sounded a wake-up call three months ago; yet progress is far too slow and too little. We must join together and win this war. We must mobilize in a unified, concerted effort.

There can never be any justification for terror, no matter the motive — period. We, therefore, fully support the statement agreed upon in the 2005 world summit outcome document, which reads,

> "We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security." (*General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 81*)

No matter where it occurs, no matter the circumstances, nothing can ever justify the wilful targeting of civilians. Terror is terror is terror.

Israel welcomes the invaluable efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, the Al-Qaida Committee and the 1540 Committee in combating international terrorism. We see the work of the Committees as part of the international fight against terrorism and hope their efforts will lead to a significant reduction of international terror. Similarly, and very importantly, a global strategy to counter terrorism, should it be action-oriented and concrete, could complement these efforts.

We in Israel, unfortunately, have an intimate awareness of the need to fight international terrorism. The axis of terror represents an unholy alliance of Iran, the greatest State sponsor of terrorism and the largest threat to international peace and security; Syria, which hosts the headquarters of terrorist organizations dedicated to wreaking havoc in the streets of Israel and murdering as many individuals as possible; and the terror organizations themselves.

A dark cloud is looming over the Middle East and, indeed, the world. Iran, Syria and the terror organizations they finance, harbour, nurture and support, do not discriminate between their victims, targeting innocents wherever they are, and in their trail of terror kill Jews, Christians, Muslims and Druze, Americans and Frenchmen and whoever happens to be unlucky enough to be in their path. As the Foreign Minister of the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Zahar, recently stated, suicide terrorism represents the realization of the ultimate dream of the Palestinians. It is, indeed, a sad reality that the Palestinians who went to the polls seeking a better life and an end to corruption, find themselves in the grip of a terrorist organization that is turning their dreams into nightmares.

Unfortunately, there still exist elements that believe that terrorism is a tool to fulfil political aims. To that suggestion, the international community should respond with a resounding "No". That fanatic outlook is anathema to the principles of peace and human dignity and all that the United Nations stands for.

The axis of terror is alive and active. Leaders of Hamas meet regularly with, and have been offered financial assistance by, the President of Iran — the very same President who calls for the annihilation of another State Member of this Organization and denies the Holocaust while attempting to develop the nuclear capabilities to perpetrate the next one.

Just 48 hours ago, we witnessed how volatile the situation is on Israel's northern border, where Iran uses Hizbollah to fight its war by proxy. With Iran and Syria's active support, Hizbollah perpetrated a Katyusha rocket terrorist attack deep into northern Israel, which resulted in an extensive exchange of fire along the Lebanese border. We not only hold the Government of Lebanon fully responsible for all the terrorist activity initiated from its territory, but also hold fully responsible the Governments of Iran and Syria for harbouring and supporting Hizbollah and other terrorist organizations. We expect the international community to enforce Security Council resolutions 425 (1978), 1559 (2004) and 1680 (2006) in full.

As a result of the active collaboration between Iran, Syria and their terrorist cronies, thousands of innocent people have lost their lives, and the lives of many more have been forever changed as a result of wounds sustained from terror attacks. Indeed, more than 24,500 terrorist attacks have been perpetrated against the Israeli people during the current period. The threat of terrorism is real and pressing, and we in Israel face it every day, in every community. It is faced by every single person. That horrific number is a horrendous statistic of the wave of terror that is sweeping the world while this third world war is raging.

We will meet here again in three months' time. If all we do then is add the names of the hundreds more victims and scores of countries hit, we will have failed miserably. It is our moral duty and an urgent responsibility to mobilize today. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to fight this world war, so that when we next meet we can declare substantial progress, if not ultimate victory.

The President (*spoke in French*): The next speaker on my list is the representative of Ukraine, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Kuchinsky (Ukraine): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the GUAM-participating States — the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

Since the attack of 11 September 2001, which visited upon us an unthinkable dimension of terrorism, many countries, cities and towns, including Bali, Riyadh, Jakarta, Russia, Madrid, London, Sharm el-Sheikh, Dahab and — repeatedly — Iraq, as well as many other sites all over the world, have fallen prey to a brand of terrorism that operates in global networks. Those tragedies prove that no State is immune from the threat of terrorism. It is only through the concerted efforts of the international community as a whole that we will be able to effectively withstand that challenge. Only a strong coalition of nations based on shared principles and values and, of course, on the Charter of the United Nations, can — as we must — resolutely rebuff the terrorists' aspirations and plans.

The Al-Qaida/Taliban sanctions Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) have made a fruitful contribution to fighting the scourge of terrorism. We believe that they are accomplishing their various mandates. The Committees should continue their efforts to increase cooperation and coordination among themselves and their experts in monitoring the implementation of the respective Security Council resolutions, as well as with regard to information-sharing and visits to various countries.

The GUAM countries welcome the efforts of the 1267 Committee to further improve the Al-Qaida/Taliban sanctions regime, and commend the role of the 1540 Committee and its group of experts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We consider the Counter-Terrorism Committee's activities in providing the information on available assistance programmes to be one of its main contributions to the fight against terrorism. We expect the Committees to continue their work, as mandated by the Security Council.

In our view, the CTC is unique. The character and scope of its mandate and working methods represent an important innovation and open possibilities for inter-State cooperation. I would like to take this opportunity to express GUAM's full support for the Counter-Terrorism Committee's programme of further activities. It is important that the Committee continue to provide all possible assistance to the multinational anti-terrorist coalition by strengthening, inter alia, the capacities of the regional organizations and groups, as many speakers have underlined today.

In this regard, let me stress that GUAM has actively participated in the consolidation of the efforts of the international community in the fight against terrorism. In particular, GUAM has made its own contribution to the special meetings of the Counter-Terrorism Committee with international, regional and subregional organizations held over the past several years.

At the recent GUAM summit, which took place on 22 and 23 May in Kyiv, Ukraine, the heads of State of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine declared the establishment of a new international organization for democracy and economic development, which will retain the name "GUAM". By signing the Kyiv GUAM summit communiqué, its members stressed the following priorities for the international organization in the future: the strengthening of the values of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and freedoms, stability and security, combating international terrorism and other lofty goals.

The participants in the summit had a high assessment of the existing level of interaction in combating terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking and other dangerous types of crime. They expressed their determination to provide a political, legal and organizational basis for overcoming the challenges of international terrorism, separatism, intolerance and extremism.

GUAM attaches great importance to the strengthening of its legal framework. In that regard, the Presidents of the GUAM States parties welcomed the joint statement of the law enforcement authorities of

GUAM member States signed at Kyiv during the summit on 22 May 2006 and also the signing by the heads of those countries' border services of a protocol concerning cooperation among the operational bodies of the border services.

GUAM is continuing to carry out two projects in the area of counter-terrorism and border security: the project on the establishment of the GUAM virtual centre for combating terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking and other dangerous crimes; and the project on the creation of the GUAM inter-State information management system.

Terrorism is a reprehensible malady of the present day. If we let it flourish through our hesitation, it has the potential to undermine the very pillars of our civilization. The United Nations and its Security Council constitute the basis for our collective efforts to fight this threat as a transnational phenomenon. GUAM stands ready to further enhance its capacities in order to make its contribution to our common goal. We thus look forward to the speedy adoption and implementation of a global strategy against terrorism to promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses at the national, regional and international levels, as mandated by the world summit.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Mrs. Núñez de Odremán (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like at the outset to thank the representative of the Republic of the Congo for convening this meeting of great importance for the international community. We also wish to thank the Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) for the information they have presented today.

Terrorism in all its forms — particularly State terrorism — is a grave threat to international peace and security, including to the very coexistence of the community of nations. We wish to reaffirm the position of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: we condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever and against whomsoever committed.

In its firm resolve to fight terrorism, our Government has ratified many international conventions in this area. At the domestic level, we have developed a broad set of counter-terrorism laws and have created a national counter-terrorism authority. Thus, we have complied in a committed, responsible and consistent manner with our obligations in this field. We have also regularly submitted the relevant reports to the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee and to the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism. With the same conviction and perseverance with which we are fighting this scourge, we wish to express our condemnation and repudiation of the use of terrorism as a political instrument for the outright killing or intimidation of innocent, weak and helpless people anywhere in the world.

In the fight against terrorism, the international community has no other choice but to work together and to adopt policies aimed at combating this scourge in order to mete out effective justice. Policies employing double standards compromise the credibility, trustworthiness and good name of any organization or State that deliberately uses such policies to elude terrorism, particularly State terrorism.

At present, penalties against acts of terrorism committed by the armed forces of a State are insufficient under the norms provided by international humanitarian law. The so-called collateral damage of today's military actions is not really collateral damage, but rather principal damage, every time innocent men, women and children are killed. Moreover, in the current asymmetrical war, the concept of collateral damage of military action makes no sense, since the most powerful State is confronting an entire people. Acts of mass destruction produced by weapons of mass destruction are directed against people without any distinction. That enables us to describe such acts as State terrorism pure and simple. Examples abound, such as the terrorist actions carried out by the Government of the United States of America against Nicaragua or the current case of the people of Iraq.

However, what is regulated and considered inadmissible is support in any form for entities or individuals who participate in terrorist acts or provide safe haven for those who commit such acts. Such support would be in flagrant non-compliance with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). In paragraphs 2 (c) and 3 (g) of that resolution, States are prohibited from offering safe haven to those who commit acts of terrorism and from recognizing claims of political motivation as grounds for refusing requests for the extradition of alleged terrorists. Here too, examples abound. Public opinion is aware of the protection that

the Government of the United States of America is providing to one of the most infamous terrorists in the Western hemisphere, Luis Posada Carriles, a well-known assassin on the CIA's payroll.

Another case worth mentioning in this Chamber is that, on 15 March 2004, a formal extradition request was made for the citizens José Antonio Pulido and German Varela López, accused in Venezuelan courts of having planted explosive devices in diplomatic headquarters of Spain and Colombia. On 28 April 2006, the current United States authorities granted those terrorists freedom within United States territory. The current Government of the United States has not responded to the request made by the Venezuelan judicial system to extradite — in compliance with existing treaties and international law — those citizens accused of carrying out terrorist acts in Venezuela and to bring them to justice for their actions. On the contrary, it is protecting them with baseless excuses that are indefensible in the eyes of the international community.

The double standards with which this subject is being addressed are obvious. Will the following questions remain unanswered? Who is the terrorist? Who is the destabilizer? Who does not implement its national counter-terrorism laws or even international agreements when it is convenient?

Finally, our Government, which is committed to the true fight against terrorism and does not justify any form of terrorism, formally requests that the item of State terrorism and the consideration of actions by the international community against such cases as the United States of America, which we consider to be dangerous to our peoples, be included in this meeting and subsequent deliberations of the Security Council.

The President *(spoke in French)*: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Sadeghi (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Mr. Alhariri (Syrian Arab Republic) took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President *(spoke in French)*: I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Alhariri (Syrian Arab Republic) *(spoke in Arabic)*: Allow me at the outset, Mr. President, to commend your leadership of the Security Council for this month. My delegation would also like to join others in thanking Ambassadors Loj, Mayoral and Burian for their briefings to the Security Council this morning.

Syria would like to reaffirm its condemnation of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism. Syria has been a victim of horrific acts of terrorism, and was among the first countries to sound the warning of that looming danger. Syria has called for national and international strategies to combat terrorism. Syria has also shared its experience in combating terrorism with many countries of the world, which has contributed to saving the lives of many innocent persons of various nationalities and to breaking up many international terrorist cells.

Syria is implementing its commitments vis-à-vis the Consolidated List. The relevant authorities have incorporated names on the List into the electronic entry control system at all Syrian border control posts, in addition to distributing those names in hard copy.

We note with appreciation that the 1267 Committee is making great efforts to carry out its mandate. Nevertheless, despite those efforts, the Security Council has yet to seriously take up the reference by the General Assembly in last September's World Summit Outcome to the need for fairness in dealing with the issues of listing, delisting and amending the Consolidated List and making exceptions to it. That is in addition to the problems encountered in the implementation of the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council — especially the great gaps that exist with regard to identifying elements for a number of names on the list, and in particular the fact that many names are similar and some are repeated and that spelling is not standardized. The time has come for a comprehensive review to update the List and to eliminate all doubt as to the information it contains.

Syria notes the efforts being made by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to deal with the backlog of State reports. We call for further efforts to fully eliminate the backlog of such reports. Syria will soon present its fifth report to the CTC, which will include the latest legislative steps taken by Syria with regard to its national law to combat terrorism and its financing. Let me also point to the burden faced by States, including mine, in responding to the many reporting requirements.

I would like to say that the body created under the law to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism is taking a very active and effective role, especially in opening up the banking sector and in the future establishment of a stock market in Syria. That body has also held a number of workshops, in cooperation with various international bodies, including the World Bank. A regional conference for the Middle East and North Africa was held in Damascus entitled "Development of an effective system to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism". The Arab Banking Union, in cooperation with Syria's central bank, held a seminar on combating the financing of terrorism and money laundering. Moreover, the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force has also expressed its satisfaction with Syrian transparency in the area of combating terrorism, as well as with our country's full commitment to implement the recommendations of the Task Force.

The anti-terrorism financing and money laundering body is also signing memorandums of understanding in order to share information with a number of other States. That body has also requested membership in the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, and will attend the Group's next meeting, to be held in Cyprus in mid-June, as an observer.

With regard to the work of the 1540 Committee, we continue to believe that that Committee's work can in no way be seen as an alternative to the various international disarmament mechanisms. We must avoid attempting to inject the Security Council into the activities of the General Assembly. I should also add that we have submitted our report under that resolution. Syria has also responded to further questions by the Committee. Those clarifications also referred to the fact that the law on combating terrorism and money laundering includes language criminalizing any trade in radioactive materials.

Syria is committed to cooperating with various Security Council bodies on terrorism. We are making sincere efforts to update our domestic legislation and to establish effective ways to combat terrorism. We also welcome the coordinating efforts of the three Committees to implement their mandates. We call upon them to avoid duplication and to streamline the many reporting requirements, as called for at September's Summit. We also call on the Committees to avoid duplication of the efforts being made by the General Assembly, which is the sole legislative authority of the United Nations.

In dealing with international terrorism, which does in fact threaten international peace and security, we call upon the Security Council to avoid intervening in matters that fall strictly within the purview of the General Assembly — especially as regards legislative matters, for that would affect the legal nature of Security Council measures and open the way to the possibility of appealing against them.

The Arab region is suffering from terrorism in general, and from State terrorism in particular, as represented by the terrorism of Israel, which continues to occupy Arab lands, to kill Palestinian citizens and to destroy their property and to build a wall of separation of Palestinian land. While noting the role of the Security Council in international efforts to combat global terrorism, we call on the States members of the Security Council to avoid double standards in fighting terrorism. Combating terrorism must be based on strict legal criteria, and not on flimsy political considerations.

In that regard, I must stress that Israel is duty-bound to cease its cheap blackmail against the United Nations. Israel is well aware that the international community knows about the terrorist acts it has perpetrated since coming to the region. Its gangs have assassinated many international personalities, including those sent by the United Nations to investigate the situation in the region. Everyone is aware of the fact that the source of terrorism in the region is Israel's continuing occupation of Arab lands, the ejection of Palestinians from their land, the confiscation of that land and Israel's ongoing aggression against Arabs and its denial of their basic rights.

The important point is that, in his statement, the representative of Israel referred to and insisted on the need to implement resolutions 1680 (2006) and 1559 (2004). I should like the statement we made to the sponsors of those resolutions when they were introduced to be clearly reflected in the records of the Security Council. We said that the objective of the resolutions was to serve the regional interests and agenda of Israel and its supporters and not the cause of peace and security in the Middle East.

The representative of Israel did not mention Israel's huge nuclear arsenal. He seeks to confuse the legitimate rights of those living under occupation and whose lands have been usurped with the rights of those who perpetrate terrorism. Perhaps he should read the United Nations Charter, which was drafted to save generations from the scourge of war and from foreign occupation. Those who are ignorant of these facts may be illiterate, and if they are illiterate they ought not to be here at the United Nations.

I will be brief. Israel's terrorism is known to all. Most regrettably, Israel can fool some people some of the time; however, it cannot fool everyone all of the time. Occupation is rejected. Right is might, and it is the legitimate right of all people to combat occupation. Neither Israel nor anyone else can prevent peoples under occupation from resisting it.

Syria believes that the United Nations is a unique framework for strengthening collective action towards cooperation between all States to combat terrorism and to identify its root causes. My delegation attaches the utmost importance to the efforts of the General Assembly to update international counter-terrorism conventions and to ensure the discharge by all States of their international obligations. In that regard, I would stress that we shall effectively cooperate in forthcoming discussions to establish a comprehensive strategy to combat international terrorism.

We believe that any comprehensive strategy must recognize certain basic elements, most important of which are a clear and accurate definition of terrorism and the need to address its fundamental roots, particularly foreign occupation. The struggle against terrorism must not be exploited for political ends. We must therefore differentiate between criminal terrorism and the rights of peoples under occupation and foreign hegemony to struggle towards their independence and self-determination. We believe that the strategy must target terrorism perpetrated by individuals, groups and States, and we therefore feel that State terrorism must be addressed by the comprehensive strategy.

We look forward to the best possible implementation by the three committees of their mandates in order to enhance international cooperation, promote international peace and security, and eliminate all sources of tension in our world.

The President (*spoke in French*): I call on the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Sadeghi (Islamic Republic of Iran): May I begin by congratulating you, Sir, on your skilful presidency of the Security Council and on your professional stewardship of its work for this month. I also commend your predecessor, Ambassador Wang Guangya of China, for his commendable presidency of the Council last month.

I would also like to thank the Chairmen of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) for their praiseworthy work and for their comprehensive briefings to us today. My thanks also go to the vice-chairmen, members and experts of the Committees, particularly the members and head of the Monitoring Team of the 1267 Committee, for their dedicated efforts to implement the tasks assigned to those important Committees.

The fight against terrorism remains a priority for the international community. The role of the United Nations in addressing that menace is of great magnitude, and the important contribution that the said Committees can and should make to tackle that problem deserves recognition and appreciation. Iran remains fully committed to cooperating with the Committees in fulfilling the important tasks with which they have been entrusted. In the past four years, three visits have been paid to the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Chairman of the 1267 Committee and by the 1267 Committee's Monitoring Team. Moreover, Iran has furnished the said Committees with the required reports and is in the process of finalizing its fifth national report to be sent to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

As a victim of terrorism, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and has demonstrated its strong resolve to fight terrorism by all means,

including by arresting one of the greatest number of Al-Qaida members apprehended by any single State and handing them over to the authorities of their respective countries in the past four or five years. In that context, Iran has intensified its control over and security at its borders with a view to preventing the entry of terrorists into or transit from its territory.

Moreover, and aware of the indisputable mutually reinforcing connections between terrorism — particularly that of Al-Qaida and the Taliban — and drug-trafficking, Iran has fought a costly war against that menace, on which Al-Qaida feeds. Here, I would like to emphasize that, as also indicated in the reports of the 1267 Committee, the efforts of the international community in fighting terrorism, particularly the threats posed by Al-Qaida and the Taliban, will not yield the expected results unless adequate attention is also given to the menace of drug-trafficking, which serves as the main financial feeding ground for that terrorist group. Indeed, Iran has shouldered the burden almost single-handedly thus far. Therefore, the contribution and attention of the whole international community to that important aspect of fighting Al-Qaida and the Taliban are unquestionably needed.

Terrorism is a serious threat and a global menace. The increasing insecurity and the escalation of acts of violence and terrorism perpetrated by malicious terrorists in different parts of the world — including the heinous and unspeakable terrorist acts in Iraq and also the daily, cold-blooded State terrorism practiced by the Israeli regime in Palestinian territories — are of serious concern to the international community. Terrorism is a perverted product of the mentality espoused by some State and non-State actors, which glorifies military might as the source of legitimacy and denigrates the principles of international law, ethics and morality as cumbersome constrictions on the exercise of power. Terrorism can and must be destroyed first and foremost by reversing the logic of violence and coercion and changing those mentalities.

The United Nations counter-terrorism mechanisms are the embodiment of our forces, joined under the umbrella of the United Nations, to eradicate the menace of terrorism, and have thus far registered commendable achievements. Yet, the international community's efforts to eradicate terrorism have faced some hurdles along the way that need to be addressed appropriately. For instance, an opposing unilateralist trend has, from the very beginning of this effort, threatened to halt the momentum and shatter the universal consensus, thus undermining the overall and effective fight against terrorism.

Moreover, while the decisive stage in the war against terrorism is that of capturing the minds and hearts of peoples, the abuse of the fight against terrorism by some demagogues to spread hatred and bigotry among various cultures and religions, and their efforts to demonize and defame certain religions or cultures by the unfair and unfounded attribution of terrorism to them, may in fact prove to be no less serious in their gravity than terrorism itself. In its endeavours to fight terrorism, the United Nations should also consider proper mechanisms to rescue the much-abused term of terrorism from those countries that unfairly and baselessly use it as a pejorative term for any other country that dissents from their policies. We need to recognize that the application of double standards in dealing with terrorism and terrorist groups is yet another important matter of grave concern which seriously undermines the international community's collective campaign against terrorism.

In the course of the past three decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been subjected to acts of terrorism by various terrorist groups. Particular reference should be made to a terrorist group which has long been stationed in Iraq and which has planned, financed, supervised and perpetrated terrorist operations in Iran. These have resulted in the killing of many civilians and officials as well as in damage to private and government property. That terrorist group was long supported and sheltered by the regime of Saddam Hussein and ironically continues to enjoy similar protection from the occupying forces in Iraq today. During this period, that terrorist organization has staged more than 612 terrorist operations in Iran or against Iranian interests outside the country, including hijackings, abductions, bombings and indiscriminate terrorist attacks against civilians.

There are also other terrorist groups that have operated against the Iranian people with the collaboration of other terrorist organizations and with the tacit support of some foreign countries. Most recently, a terrorist group attacked and killed tens of people in the eastern and south-eastern parts of the country in an attempt to create an environment of intimidation and insecurity. We are of the strong view that there should not be a distinction between different forms of terrorism. In other words, there are no good

and bad terrorists or terrorism: terrorism is bad and should be condemned and combated with no discrimination.

It is not my intention to take the time of the Council to respond to some of the baseless and unworthy allegations raised here against my country by the representative of the disgraced Israeli regime. However, I wish to mention the following points. Ever since its inception, the Israeli regime has been deeply suffering from a lack of legitimacy. So it is not surprising that the representative of such a regime, ruled constantly by those who are culprits of various crimes against humanity and war crimes, would make such baseless and fabricated propaganda as a remedy for the regime's illegitimacy.

Moreover, it is an open secret that the Israeli regime has continuously and purposely violated many international laws and norms, not to mention dozens of United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions. The response of that irresponsible regime has been nothing but complete defiance. In that context, particular reference can be made to the mischievous policy of the Israeli regime on the nuclear issue, which is a showcase for its concealment and its unabated pursuit of a nuclear arsenal in recent decades. It is indisputable that this ill-intentioned policy has been threatening peace and security in the volatile region of the Middle East and beyond for years. In fact, the Israeli nuclear danger and missile capability, coupled with its wicked behaviour, present a real threat not only to regional peace and security but also to the whole world. Therefore, this threat needs to be urgently and decisively addressed by the international community. Indeed, that regime should face a united front and must be kept under continuous pressure to relinquish its terrorist acts and its nuclear programme, and to place all of its nuclear facilities under international monitoring.

It is worth mentioning that the only existing obstacle to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East is the Israeli regime's non-adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and its continued clandestine operation of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, with the help and technological assistance of a certain State. The regime has paid no attention to the constant international call in many forums, and particularly at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT, which called upon that regime by name to accede to the Treaty immediately and without any conditions. Moreover, the regime has never been a party to the international instruments on weapons of mass destruction, namely the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention and the NPT.

The President (*spoke in French*): The representative of Israel wishes to make a further statement, and I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Gillerman (Israel): I believe that, before I made my statement, the representatives of neither Iran nor Syria were supposed to speak. I would just like very, very briefly to express my appreciation — which I hope is shared by members of the Security Council — for the opportunity afforded to all of us to hear lectures about terrorism by two of the world's greatest experts on that subject.

The President (*spoke in French*): The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to make a further statement, and I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Alhariri (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): I wish to make one brief comment on the representative of Israel's statement that we were not "supposed" to speak. We made our statement under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, which is perfectly clear, and with the approval of the Council. I think addressing the Council in the way he did is evidence of absolute arrogance. If there are experts on international terrorism, everybody knows that Israel is "the" expert on international terrorism. It established a State on the basis of international terrorism. If there is suffering in the world, it is because of Israel.

In his statement, the representative of Israel spoke three times of a third world war. The Constitution of UNESCO tells us that "wars begin in the minds of men", and it appears that this is what is in the mind of Israel. If we think about this, we will find the reasons for both the First and the Second World War.

The President (*spoke in French*): The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to make a further statement, and I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Sadeghi (Islamic Republic of Iran): My first statement was not, in fact, a response to the first statement of the representative of Israel, as that representative said, but this one is indeed a response to what the representative of Israel just said.

I shall be very brief and will limit my response to one sentence. What the representative of Israel just said was a big lie, and it shows that all the other things they say are the same, the proof being that the secretariat of the Security Council received our letter, requesting that our delegation be included in the list of speakers, on Friday.

The President (*spoke in French*): There are no further speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 2.10 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5447

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 May 2006

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Official communiqué of the 5447th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 31 May 2006, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record.

"On 31 May 2006, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 5447th meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

"The Security Council and the troop-contributing countries heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Mr. Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber, Director of the Europe and Latin America Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations."

06-36878 (E) 310506

United Nations S/PV.5448

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5448th meeting

Wednesday, 31 May 2006, 11 a.m.
New York

President	Mr. Adada	(Congo)
Members	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	China	Mr. Wang Guangya
	Denmark	Ms. Løj
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Japan	Mr. Oshima
	Peru	Mr. De Rivero
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Qahtani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Lowassa
	United States of America	Mr. Bolton

Agenda

Briefing by the Chairman of the African Union

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-36808 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Briefing by the Chairman of the African Union

The President (*spoke in French*): On behalf of the Council, I welcome the presence among us of His Excellency Mr. Edward Ngoyayi Lowassa, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting the Security Council will hear a briefing by His Excellency Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo, in his capacity as current Chairman of the African Union, under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

I request the Chief of Protocol to escort the President of the Republic of the Congo to a seat at the Council table.

Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo, was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in French*): I give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo.

President Sassou Nguesso (*spoke in French*): I would like first of all to thank the Security Council for this opportunity to address the Council today on an issue which without question forms a major part of its agenda: armed conflict in Africa. I am doing so on behalf of the African Union, an institution which will always express deep gratitude to the Security Council for its tireless efforts and for the determination it is demonstrating in its initiatives to support peace and security on our continent, which for too long has been buffeted and threatened. The stabilizing action that the Council is taking and the partnership that has been established between the Security Council and the African Union are to be welcomed and encouraged, particularly since today's meeting is taking place on the eve of the missions that the Council will undertake next week in Africa.

Fortunate coincidence has it that my country, which is chairing the African Union this year, currently occupies a seat on the Council and is able to play its modest part in the Council's initiatives for Africa and hence to provide a link between these two bodies whose actions must always be undertaken in harmony. Harmonization of our undertakings is a goal towards which, fortunately, we all striving. This requires effectiveness and credibility in our approaches. It justifies the regular consultations that we conduct between our two bodies. The way in which we together manage such complex issues as Côte d'Ivoire and Darfur is eloquent testimony to the relevance of that vision.

The partnership that has been established between the United Nations and the African Union is based upon a vision which clearly establishes that there can be no peace without development and there can be no development without peace. The report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (S/1998/318) remains relevant today. It provides the basis for a broad strategy of prevention which takes account of all the dimensions of the violent crises which are shaking the African continent.

Here, Security Council resolutions 1170 (1998), 1196 (1998), 1208 (1998) and 1209 (1998) continue to be relevant and remain a subject of our attention since they stress

> "the close linkage between international peace and security and sustainable development and the need for the international community to respond to the challenge of illicit arms flows to and in Africa in a comprehensive manner, encompassing not only the field of security but that of social and economic development". (*resolution 1209 (1998), sixth preambular paragraph*)

That means that, because they are so closely linked, we must deal appropriately with issues of economic and social development, poverty elimination, national reconciliation, good governance, social justice and others. Ultimately, the goal is to create viable and stable societies.

The creation within the African Union of the Peer Review Mechanism responds to the need to be aware of the multidimensional aspect of these conflicts. Participation in the Mechanism reflects the

commitment of African leaders who are determined to establish modern States. This vision and the practices that arise from it enable Africa today to see the prospect of a brighter future. We see this today in the economic area, where the indicators seem to suggest that there is movement towards consolidation in the direction of more sustained growth. We see it also in the area of peace and security, the subject of my remarks. Yes, Africa is going in the right direction, even if the line is not a straight one and if progress remains fragile. Nevertheless, we embrace the positive signs, of which there are many examples.

Most of the current conflicts are at least three years old: these are not new crises. The tragic case of Somalia, the situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia, the crisis in northern Uganda and the situation in Western Sahara are conflicts that, unfortunately, have lasted because they have not been dealt with appropriately. Nor have there been commitment or mutual confidence on the part of the principal protagonists.

Some conflicts that ranked among the worst in the continent have now been settled in an encouraging way — for instance, the civil war in Angola, which is now but a bad memory, and the crises in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau and, recently, Burundi. In the management of some of these post-conflict situations, we appeal for sustained, long-term international support that could avoid a relapse or return to the previous state of affairs. Hence, we welcome the recently created Peacebuilding Commission, which in Africa will find a place for appropriate experimentation.

Concerning certain other conflicts now taking place, the international community possesses scenarios for emerging from crises; these should allow us to see the light at the end of the tunnel before the end of this year. Such is the case with the situations in Côte d'Ivoire, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Darfur. In the first two cases, road maps exist with clear timetables that must be respected. In this respect, particular responsibility lies with the national actors, whose efforts we are determined to support. In the case of Darfur, following the agreement reached on 5 May 2006 in Abuja, which needs to be strengthened and implemented, we have at our disposal a framework that allows us to prepare for the transition towards a United Nations operation of a strong African nature, in close cooperation with all the parties, particularly the Government of National Unity of the Sudan.

We must now continue to strive to strengthen the partnership between the United Nations, the African Union and the subregional communities. In this regard, we welcome the adoption by the Security Council on 14 September 2005 of resolution 1625 (2005) on enhancing the effectiveness of its role in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa. Our continent has the appropriate tools to implement this partnership. I am referring in particular to the Protocol relating to the creation of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the African Union Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact, adopted in Abuja in January 2005.

In closing these general comments, I would like to emphasize our common will to put an end to these intolerable situations that continue in Africa by making best use of all the means that international cooperation provides, particularly in the framework of the partnership that has been established between our two organizations. To be sure, we still have a long way to go, but I like to say that the longest journey always begins with the first step. Patience and extended effort are extremely valuable friends. I therefore hope that the path that we have been following together for so long will lead us in the end to more promising horizons, because nowhere is it written that tragedy has to remain at the heart of Africa's future.

The President *(spoke in French)*: I thank His Excellency President Denis Sassou Nguesso for his statement.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I should now like to invite Council members to a private meeting to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5449

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 May 2006

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5449th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 31 May 2006, at 11.35 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communique was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record.

"At its 5449th meeting, held in private on 31 May 2006, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'Briefing by the Chairman of the African Union'.

"Pursuant to the decision taken at the 5448th meeting, the President recognized the presence of the distinguished President of the Republic of the Congo, His Excellency Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"Members of the Council and His Excellency Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, in his capacity as current Chairman of the African Union, had a constructive exchange of views."

06-36872 (E) 310506

United Nations S/PV.5450

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5450th meeting

Wednesday, 31 May 2006, 7.05 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Gayama	(Congo)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Mayoral
	China	Mr. Li Junhua
	Denmark	Ms. Løj
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Haneda
	Peru	Mr. Gallardo
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Qahtani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mrs. Taj
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-36852 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 7.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2006/343, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. If I hear no objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, China, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America.

The President (*spoke in French*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1681 (2006).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 7.10 p.m.

United Nations

S/PV.5451

Security Council

Provisional

5451

5451st meeting

Friday, 2 June 2006, 10.15 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Lee	(Republic of Korea)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	China	Mr. Li Junhua
	Congo	Mr. Ikounga-Kounga
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Ghartey
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Qahtani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Allen
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mrs. Tax
	United States of America	Mr. Bolton

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-37324 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.55 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President: As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of June, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Baso Ikouebe, Permanent Representative of the Congo to the United Nations, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of May 2006. I am sure I speak for all members of the Security Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Ikouebe for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ajhanou (Côte d'Ivoire) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2006/222, which contains the eighth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire. Members of the Council also have before them document S/2006/357, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/2006/334, which contains the text of a letter dated 25 May 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, and to document S/2006/345, which contains the text of a letter dated 22 May 2006 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General.

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/2006/357) before it. If I hear no objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, China, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America.

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1682 (2006).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5452

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 June 2006

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5452nd (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 6 June 2006, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record.

"On 6 June 2006, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 5452nd meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).

"The Security Council and the troop-contributing countries heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Ms. Lisa Buttenheim, Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

"Members of the Council, Ms. Buttenheim and representatives of participating troop-contributing countries had an exchange of views."

06-37690 (E) 060606